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JAN 6 1942

# Country Life

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## CLASSIFIED ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued on

Inside Back Cover.

## GARDENING

## MR. CUTHBERT'S GARDEN TALK

**LORD WOOLTON** has just announced that we must expect less Fruit from abroad and all Gardeners should therefore grow their own supply of this health giving food.

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# Country Life

VOL. XC. No. 2345.

DECEMBER 26, 1941.

Published Friday, Price ONE SHILLING & THREEPENCE.

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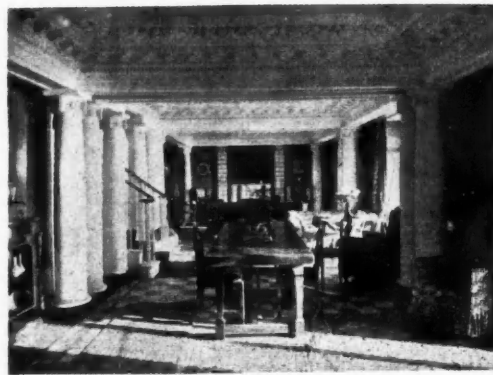
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5 LOOSE BOXES AND AMPLE OUT-BUILDINGS AND 2 EXCELLENT COTTAGES WITH 3 BEDROOMS.

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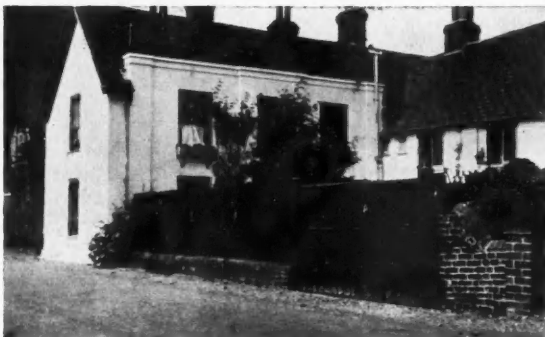
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Servants' Hall.  
 Good domestic offices.



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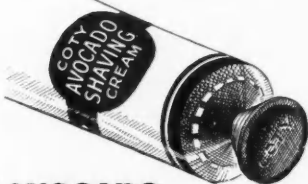




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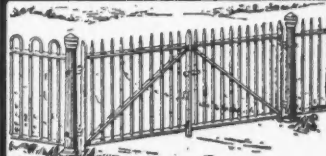
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Please look through your drawers and turn out all the old programmes, seedmen's lists, show catalogues and so forth. You will feel a deep-down satisfaction in sending them for salvage. The paper will go towards more than a paper Victory.

## My Aunt and the "BLACKETEER"

One crisp December morning, as my Aunt was gathering brussels sprouts on the croquet lawn, a neat little car swept through the gateway.

The driver debussed and came forward, picking his way over the croquet hoops. A nondescript young man, whose hair and overcoat were both longer than normal.

"Morning," he said, somewhat casually. "Heard you were looking for some Thermos stuff."

My Aunt's attention returned abruptly to the sprouts. "I always place my orders with Willett," she remarked, "and he assures me he can get no further supplies this year. Oh!—how silly of me not to realise! I had heard Mr. Willett was looking for a new delivery boy . . ."

The young man laughed, and lit a cigarette. "No offence, lady," he replied. "I'm a stranger, yes—but what's the odds? Willett can't get the stuff. I can. And you want it." He produced from one deep pocket a gaily painted flask. "So—here we are."

My Aunt recoiled as from a snake. "But this," she exclaimed, pointing at the garish label, "this isn't Thermos. It's just a — a flask!"

"So what?" the stranger enquired. "It's a flask, ain't it, whether it's got a fancy name or not?"

At this heresy, my Aunt raised goggling eyes to heaven. Then, controlling herself with an effort, she turned away.

"Good day," she gasped.

The young man advanced, and thrust the offending object in front of her again.

"But listen, lady! You can't afford to be so choosy these days. You gotter take what's going. And don't think you're doing me a favour if you buy it. I can sell all I've got in five minutes. And at my price."

"What is your price?" said my Aunt.

"A quid," said the young man. "Might shade it a bit for half-a-dozen. Say eighteen and six—and no questions."

My Aunt turned, firmly grasping a small handfork as she stepped forward. "No questions?" she echoed. "On the contrary, my friend, a number of highly embarrassing questions!" She bore down on him step by step, prodding, Clytemnestra-like, with menacing fork at his midriff.

"Now, look here, lady!" he exclaimed, backing hastily, "there's no call for violence. If you aren't interested, O.K. I've got other customers. I've got—" and here, catching his foot in a stray hoop, he fell heavily to earth. The flask flew from his hand and landed among the sprouts.



My Aunt regarded him as he lay, then picked up the sample. It tinkled un-musically with broken fragments.

"A quid," she remarked. "One solid sovereign, and it can't stand even one gentle toss. I wish your other 'customers' could see you now!"

"Now, look here, lady!" he protested from the turf. "Come off that! How'm I going to earn a living?"

"Ever heard of the Army," my Aunt enquired, "or were you down in a deep shelter on Registration day? And where, by the way, do you get the petrol to go junketing round about? And how does this trash come into the country, anyway? And how many rogues are taking a profit on it to beat the Prices of Goods Act?"

"Now, listen, lady! I'm not the boss—"

"I never suspected it," snapped my Aunt. "You're just one of the creepy-crawly little Blacketeers who come in under any racket to cheat the long-suffering public. Trying to sell this junk at any old price because you know the real stuff is in short supply."

"Well, that ain't nothing to do with me —"

"Of course not. You wouldn't know about bomber crews, who need Thermos jars. Or about men at sea, or men in the desert, or men at the coal-face, who need hot meals in tight corners at inconvenient hours. You only know there's a shortage at home."

"Well, so there is. And why shouldn't I try to sell people the stuff if they want it?"

"Young man," said my Aunt, methodically wiping her muddy shoes on his coat tails, "you have a lot to learn, and I devoutly trust that the process of education will be painful. You're not just rooking a lot of simpletons by selling them fake luxuries at ridiculous prices. You are battenning on tired and hungry workers and wardens and watchers—robbing them of hard-earned money—fooling them with the hope that your trashy little flask will give them service. Perhaps you've seen what happens to the creatures who profiteer in food? To my way of thinking, you're just one of the same black family."

\* \* \* \* \*

When the garden was quiet again, my Aunt returned to her sprouts. Then her glance fell on me, as I stood holding the battered flask.

"Ah!" she exclaimed, "you might take that thing along to Willett. Ask him, with my compliments, to put it prominently on show as a Horrid Warning for his customers. And if he wants a label for it, tell him '*Nothing can have value without being an object of utility.*' Rather quoting Marx out of his context—but no matter. In fact," she went on, "you might even write it out yourself as a copy-book exercise, to help impress it on your young mind. Twenty times, please, by tea-time."



*In wishing all their friends the compliments of the season, Thermos (1925) Ltd. take this opportunity to state that they are fully alive to the essential civilian demand for their products, but regret their inability to satisfy it completely.*

# COUNTRY LIFE

DECEMBER 26, 1941



*Harlip*

## THE HON. MRS. WALTER KEPPEL

Mrs. Keppel, who is the only daughter of Brigadier-General John Harington and Lady Aline Harington, was married to Lieut. the Hon. W. A. C. Keppel, R.N., second son of Viscount Bury and the late Viscountess Bury, early last month



# COUNTRY LIFE

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Telegrams: Country Life, London. Telephone: Temple Bar 7351

## ADVERTISEMENT AND PUBLISHING OFFICES:

TOWER HOUSE, SOUTHAMPTON STREET, W.C.2  
Telephone: Temple Bar 4363

The Editor reminds correspondents that communications requiring a reply must be accompanied by the requisite stamps. MSS. will not be returned unless this condition is complied with.

Postal rates on this issue: Inland 2½d., Canada 1½d., Elsewhere abroad 2½d.

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## THOROUGHBREDS FOR RUSSIA

THE news that cavalry is coming into its own again on the Russian front is a reminder of the important part played by the British thoroughbred and its ally, the Arab, in enriching Russian stock. Before the last war breeding establishments, run on a lavish scale, abounded in Russia, but in the years following the Revolution most of them disappeared. Then, about five or six years ago, the Commissariat of Agriculture formed a special department, under the directorship of Marshal Budenny, to resuscitate the industry. A party of Russians under the guidance of Mr. J. J. Parkinson, the Irish breeder, visited this country and Ireland and bought everything—mainly stallions—that at their price seemed likely to improve the quality and stamina of their own horses. Stallions of the stamp of Press Gang, The Recorder, Stingo, Cyclonic, Diligence, Estate Duty, Leonidas, Pure Gem, Solar Boy, Solmint, Star of Destiny, and Young Son were among the 100 bought, and with them went 43 yearlings, a number of mares in foal and with foals, and some 30 Arabians, including the champion stallions Shareer and Raseem, from Lady Wentworth's Crabbet Park Stud. All these, and more, were purchased on behalf of the Soviet Government, and though it is not suggested that they or their get are actively engaged in the warfare of the moment, it is obvious that the Russians foresaw even then the value of cavalry and the necessity of employing British thoroughbred blood to get the best. Students of bloodstock history may recall an earlier memory. In the last days of the Tsars two Derby winners, Minoru and Aboyeur, were sent to Russia. The revolution came, and it was feared they had perished. But in 1920, when Denikin's defeated army was being embarked at the Black Sea port of Novorossisk, they turned up unexpectedly on the long jetty, in charge of their English groom. No one knew how they had made the hazardous journey to the far south, but there they were, looking as fresh as paint, and they were given a passage to safety.

## ACCESS TO FAIRYLAND

A FOOTPATH from Alsop into Dovedale, used during the course of a year by thousands who seek a day's relief in its beauty, has fallen out of repair to the extent of becoming dangerous. While the National Trust maintains several miles of footpaths on its Dovedale property, the Derbyshire County Council, responsible for this particular path, has declined to repair it, although the Trust and a Manchester business man have offered to contribute between them £70 of the £100 required. A good deal of resentment has been stirred up in the north by the official attitude, which seems to be based on principle. And as a matter of principle it is worth consideration. The Chairman of the Highways Committee stated that he had walked through four miles of the Dale and come to the conclusion that a footpath would spoil some parts of it. This, no doubt, is true as a generalisation, and a view creditable to local authority, which too often tends to spend public money unnecessarily by widening

and spoiling pretty lanes. But, with all due respect, surely the National Trust should be the arbiter between beauty and utility in this instance, and they consider the footpath sufficiently necessary and innocuous to contribute 50 per cent. of the cost of its repair. The County Council's refusal to devote a mere £30 to it smacks less of a passionate regard for romantic scenery than of a skinflint attitude to any expenditure on amenities, however trifling, even if a small sum spent now will save heavier expense later on. If, as may be, there is not the labour for non-essential work, that could have been frankly, and beneficially, stated.

## SMALL BREEDS OR LARGE?

PEACOCK fans (of the literary sort) will remember that catch in *The Misfortunes of Elphin* which epitomises so neatly the true reiver's sentiment:

The mountain sheep are sweeter,  
But the valley sheep are fatter;  
We therefore deemed it meet  
To carry off the latter!

and may wonder to-day what Lord Woolton and Mr. Hudson think about it. For it has become a matter of importance to decide, not which breeds of sheep are sweeter or fatter in the gastronomic sense, but which can provide more meat for the nation. The problem has been investigated on a limited basis by the West of Scotland Agricultural College on their farm at Auchincruive. The experiments were primarily undertaken in order to ascertain the relative returns from the fattening of certain pure breeds and certain cross-breeds of sheep, but they incidentally supplied most useful information with regard to the difference between the smaller hill breeds—in this case Blackface and Cheviot—and the larger low-ground breeds—in this case Cross, Suffolk Cross, and Half-breeds—as meat producers. They were divided into five groups of 40 sheep in each. The fattening period—on swedes and concentrates—was nine weeks. At the end of the experiment all the sheep were graded at Ayr. The margin over the purchase price varied little for the different groups, despite the great difference in size of sheep. But when allowance had been made for the food consumed by the different breeds and crosses, it was readily apparent that the small breeds had given the better returns; for three small sheep consumed no more than two of the larger sheep, and a very much larger number can be fattened per acre.

## THE BUILDERS

OUT of our vision beauty grew  
And pattern and grace from inanimate stones,  
But now the spires that we built for you  
Come toppling down on our whitened bones.  
Havoc rides on its flailing wings,  
But out of the chaos, out of the fear,  
A far voice speaks and a far bell rings  
And the stones cry out—let the people hear.  
Dust to dust—but the torch we hold  
Was not kindled to burn in vain;  
It shall not waver, grow dull and cold,  
But by its light we shall build again.  
For through the living we are renewed,  
And we shall fashion our faultless towers  
With England's faith and her fortitude  
And with the dream that is hers and ours.

PHYLLIS MEGROZ.

## SCRAP LAMP-POSTS

A REDOUBLED drive for scrap metal in this country will be one of the effects of the United States' entry into the war. Bombed buildings, as a source of scrap, are nearly exhausted, so others must be found. So far, wrought iron-work of artistic and historic importance has rightly been spared, and we hope that the Controller will be able to continue this enlightened policy; so has ironwork that has a definite safety or use value, owing to the shortage of wood or wire substitutes. But there must still be many miles of old tram-lines available, and thousands of lamp-posts which, in these blacked-out nights, are cynical monuments to former enlightenment, and often very ugly monuments at that. Glow-worms of sorts of course there must be, which are already provided better in some towns by things like illuminated dust-bins on the kerb than by muted glimmers overhead. Or if there must be lamp-posts, there are huge stocks of cement in the

country with which to make new and better concrete ones. Sir Giles Gilbert Scott has fore-shadowed a great clearance of lamp-posts, sand-bins, pillar-boxes, traffic signs, and other pavement obstructions after the war, and their replacement by combined-purpose equipment in the interests of simplicity and tidiness. Why wait till then? Begin the process now. Every combined pillar-box-lamp-standard-bus-stop-and-Belisha-beacon erected in concrete would release a ton or two of metal, and if a pleasing, simple design were adopted a big step would simultaneously be taken towards cleaning up the streets. Only the dog population is likely to raise a howl at this suggestion.

## SURPLUS VEGETABLES

SIR JEREMIAH COLMAN has done well to call the attention of owners of large gardens to a way in which they can be of the utmost service to all the thousands of allotmenters now engaged in "digging for victory": by the distribution of such vegetable plants as are surplus to their needs and would otherwise probably be destroyed. There is invariably a wastage of seedling plants in all large gardens, however skilful and economical the management, as the methods of raising by the aid of greenhouses and frames ensure a very high percentage of seed germination. Large private-garden owners can distribute surplus seedlings of onions, leeks, celery, tomatoes, marrows, beans, peas, cabbage and other vegetables commonly raised under glass in late winter to those without facilities for early sowing, and consequently with no opportunity to enjoy early maturing crops. Some of the more enterprising local authorities, especially in the north and Midlands, have already adopted a similar distribution scheme. It is surely not beyond the capacity of others raising vegetables in their parks to follow this example and to invite the help of all large garden owners in their neighbourhood who have plants to spare. Seedlings are not bulky to handle, but any scheme of distribution must be rapid, and perhaps the best method would be for those with plants to offer to state to local authorities the kinds and quantities of the plants they have available and when application should be made.

## THE COUNTRY PAPER-CHASE

THERE are plenty of signs that it is gradually being borne in to people all over the country what would be the result of even a very moderate effort on their own part to set aside and hand over every week what waste paper of any kind they can lay their hands on. The figures are simple enough to impress anybody. If each grown person were to collect each week only the equivalent of a 2oz. letter, that collection would amount to over 100,000 tons per annum. And that paper, when repulped, would make invaluable munitions of war and so save 16 shiploads of imported paper! In rural districts there is of course still a good deal to be done in the way of organising collections and transport. There is important work here for many groups of people working perhaps in different ways. To get together a band of neighbours in a village who will take it in turns to collect each other's waste for a village dump is a relatively easy task. It is more difficult to deal with outlying farms and cottages, though here there are indefatigable Scouts and Guides at the disposal of the nearest village committees or of those invaluable Women's Institutes whose members are the outward-living housewives they want to relieve of their precious hoards for the national benefit. When the communal collections are made, waste-paper merchants will be glad to buy them and there will be money available to support all kinds of village interests. Newspapers fetch 6s. 6d. per cwt., old books and magazines 5s. per cwt., and mixed waste of all kinds 2s. per cwt., so that the village dump regularly supported and regularly disposed of may easily form the basis of a most useful "Knitting Party Fund." If you are too far away for a waste-paper merchant to collect, you can arrange for one of the tradesmen from a neighbouring town to do this for you when his van is on its rounds, and he can deliver the waste to the merchant. If you want further advice or help write to COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2, marking the envelope "Waste."

# A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES . . .

By

Major C. S. JARVIS

IN his article *A Wanderer's Christmases* Mr. Negley Farson states that he has eaten two Christmas dinners in one year, and that he did not achieve this by playing tricks with the Meridian, but by dining in Stockholm by the calendar and in Petrograd 13 days later by another. I am not going to cap Mr. Farson's story (November 28) as I have not eaten two Christmas dinners in one year, but I have had two Christmas Days running and in my case it was due to playing tricks with the Meridian or allowing the Meridian to play tricks with us.

I was coming home from Australia in a four-masted sailing ship and by chance we happened to cross the Meridian between Australia and Cape Horn on Christmas Day. According to the laws governing the Meridian, as we were sailing from west to east we were given one day to make up for the loss of time incurred by putting the clock forward some 20 to 40 minutes every 24 hours. I imagine if one did not do this one would go about for the remainder of one's life a day ahead of the rest of the world, which would constitute a most confusing state of affairs—a constant repetition of those awkward episodes when one turns up for a dinner-party on the wrong night when there are only two lamb cutlets in the house.

I do not know what we called this *back-sheesh* day following December 25, but it was most certainly not Christmas, as the hard-living, hard-driving ship had exhausted its resources over one special dinner. The following day, therefore, work on board went on as usual, the fare was ordinary, and a sailing ship's ordinary in those days meant unfit for human consumption, and the festive spirit, to use a *cliché*, was conspicuous by its absence.

QUITE a proportion of one's time in these days is taken up with writing testimonials for various people who are applying for Government work, and I wonder how many of these documents on arrival at headquarters are read and weighed in the balance. A "character" in this country, owing to the laws of libel and slander, lacks the outspoken candour one permits oneself when writing a chit for an unsatisfactory servant in the East. I recall one of these shown to me by an applicant for the post of cook, which read: "Ahmed Fulani is a most painstaking spoiler of good food, and any man who is fool enough to employ him will deserve all he gets."

This, however, was many years ago, and since those days the importance of a good chit has been realised in the Orient, and the necessity for them has created an industry, or rather business, which might be called "The Chit Agency." Cooks and servants, when retiring from active life to go and live in their villages, sell their chits to the Agency, the dates on them, if they exist, are carefully blurred, and any applicant for a post where first-class testimonials are essential has only to call at the firm's headquarters—usually a coffee-shop—to have the choice of a very wide selection, the hiring price of which varies according to their quality. The new cook or servant starts work at his new post with all the lustre that a packet of first-class chits carries with it, and after that it lies with him to live up to them.

THERE was the case of an I.C.S. man, who engaged a new cook with the most wonderful chits, most of them written by recognised *gourmets*, and for some months the meals he provided were excellent. Then one day at an important dinner-party he served a meal that was one long-sustained series of tragedies from soup to savoury, the following morning breakfast was the proverbial burnt offering, and



LIKE A COLD MIRROR: THE DERWENT, FORGE VALLEY, SCARBOROUGH

lunch was even worse; so the "Heaven Born" interrogated his bearer.

"What is the cook doing," he asked, "and what is the meaning of all this disgraceful cooking? Is he drinking or taking drugs?"

"Well, Sahib," said the bearer, "the Sessions Judge who lives next door went away yesterday and took his cook with him."

"But what on earth has the Sessions Judge's cook got to do with my dinner?"

"Everything, Sahib. He cooks it. Our cook isn't a cook at all. He was a syce at his last place, and so he pays the Sessions Judge's cook to do his cooking for him."

MANY years ago I used to fish one of the big reservoirs in North Wales, and here it was necessary to use a boat always, as the Corporation, which owned the water, prohibited waders because of the risk of drowning. I was quite touched by this concern for the safety of myself and fellow-anglers until I learned that the regulation was dictated, not by kindness of heart, but solely because the Corporation did not want dead bodies in its water supply. Despite these precautions my brother and I had a very narrow squeak while fishing the reservoir owing to peculiar circumstances that neither the boatman nor we ourselves had foreseen.

The dam, which holds back the artificial lake, is about 80ft. high, and over the sill of it the water drops sheer to a rocky valley below. In the wettest weather the water passing over the sill is not more than 3ins. deep, and normally there is not the slightest risk of a boat going over—in fact, the boat along the edge of the dam is considered one of the best in the reservoir.

ON the day in question we were out with a very old and infirm boatman in a howling March gale that swept right down the lake, and having had no success while fishing the north bank we decided to go over to the other side. We did this about 15yds. from the dam, and when we were about one-third of the way across we noticed the old boatman looking anxiously to his right and pulling with all his weight on his port oar. Owing to the force of the gale a particularly heavy sea was running in the centre of the lake, and the waves being very steep and high the water going over the sill was not the usual 3ins., but more like 3ft. This was causing a strong suck that was more than the old boatman could counteract, and we were being gradually drawn down to the edge of the dam, though the bow of the boat was turned almost into the wind.

What was going to happen if we reached the sill was plainly obvious. We should bump once or twice on the masonry until a wave big enough to lift the boat came along, and then we should have gone down, boat and all, to the rocky valley 80ft. below. The worst part about the unpleasant experience was that we could do nothing to help, as, if we had taken over the oars from the septuagenarian, the temporary cessation of rowing would have been quite sufficient for us to drift with the strong current the short distance that lay between us and the dam. We had therefore

to sit tight, and feeling very futile, while a weak and exhausted man struggled for a long 10 minutes, losing inches with every stroke, until finally, when the stern of the boat was almost touching the dam, we reached calmer water and the strong suck downwards ceased.

The only bright spot in this rather alarming adventure was the consolation we derived from the fact that, if the worst had occurred, we should not have been breaking any of the Corporation's bye-laws, for our bodies would not have been defiling the water in the reservoir, but lying high and dry on the rocks below.

I HAVE just read a book—an extremely good one—by Roland Pertwee, and the title, *A Camelion's Dish*, puzzles me, as I have no idea what a camelion is beyond the fact that the creature is mentioned by Shakespeare. Hamlet when asked by the King how he fares replies: "Excellent i' faith: of the camelion's dish: I eat the air, promise crammed." One way and another I imagine quite a lot of Italians must feel they are camelions.

I have looked up both the dictionary and the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, but can find nothing that throws light on the camelion. The camelopard I know, as it is the old name for the giraffe, and a very apt one, while the chameleon is an old friend of mine. Neither of these lives on air, for the old giraffe with his 12ft. range has a wider and more variegated grazing area than any other animal, while the chameleon, though very slow and deliberate in his movements, puts away a considerable number of large-sized insects in a day. In this respect it would seem the chameleon's eyes are bigger than his stomach, as we were told when children, for I have often seen a small chameleon with a giant locust in his mouth, his eyes squinting inwards, and wondering apparently if he will admit defeat, or spend the best part of 24 hours tidying up the spread-eagled legs and wings until he can swallow it.

WITH reference to the chameleon there is a mistaken belief that he can change colour at will to match any background, but this is an exaggeration. If a chameleon lives in bright green surroundings, such as orange trees, tomato plants or maize, his normal colour is green, and he can change tints from pale lemon through emerald to the darkest blue-green, but he cannot manage reds or browns. If, on the other hand, the chameleon is on dry desert scrub, his working suit is light brown, and when put to it he can range from dirty white to rusty black, but vivid greens are beyond his powers, though he does his best. There is, however, no difference in the species, and a desert scrub resident in his suit of sombre brown, if placed in verdant surroundings, can acquire greens of every shade in course of time, but it takes at least a fortnight before he can arrive at this brilliant pigmentation.

After all these ramifications about camelions and chameleons, which have done nothing to clear up the point at issue, I can only say *The Camelion's Dish* is in the well-worth-reading class, and I "escaped" with it from 1941 to the care-free '90's for seven restful evenings.



# THE CAVE-STABLE AT BETHLEHEM - - - By H. AUSTEN



CHRISTMAS CROWD OUTSIDE THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Note the star surmounting the electric light standard

**L**IKE all the Middle East, Bethlehem will be blacked out this Christmas; but the joyful ceremonies in the great Church of the Nativity will take place just the same, and pilgrims will flock through the dark cave-stable, beneath the church, as they have done for 1,800 years or more.

"Our Bethlehem, the most august spot in the Universe, is over-shadowed by a wood consecrated to Adonis and in the grotto where Christ wailed as a babe the paramour of Venus now is mourned."

So wrote St. Jerome, learned doctor of the Latin church, on Hadrian's endeavour to wipe out the memory of Christ's birth by desecrating the stable at Bethlehem in the second century. St. Jerome, who was living in his cell close to the stable, shortly after the erection of the great basilica in 327, held that the latter was undoubtedly built upon the site of Bethlehem's *khan*, for the inns of Palestine were always situated at fixed places on caravan routes and retained their position century after century.

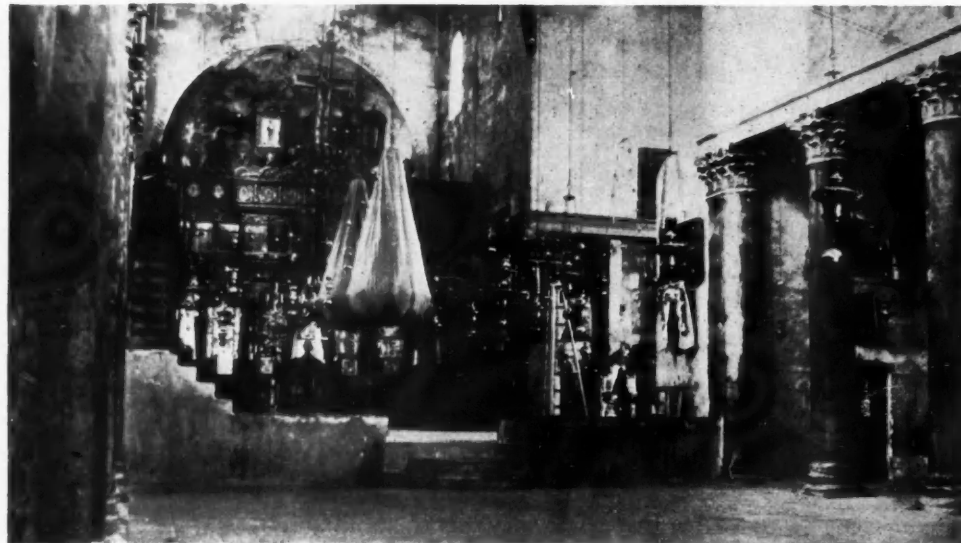
However that may be, it is certain that 200 years before the conversion of the Empire to Christianity, and before the great burst of local religion ascribed to the visit to Palestine of Helena, the Grotto of the Nativity was known and revered by Christians. Origen (185-252), the greatest Christian writer of his time, tells us that everyone in Palestine, whether a believer or pagan, knew the cave which is now hidden under the great church of Constantine and Helena—probably the most ancient monument of Christian architecture still in use.

Bethlehem is most pleasantly situated on the slopes of a hill, with magnificent views, eastwards, over the fertile fields where Ruth gleaned within



WATCH-TOWER FROM WHICH VINEYARDS ARE GUARDED

The road leads to the fertile Fields of the Shepherds



CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY. THE CAVE-STABLE IS BENEATH THE CHOIR



LOOKING DOWN ON THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

This church was built in 327



A MODERN SIGN IN ANCIENT SETTING

It is in English, Arabic and Hebrew



A CHRISTMAS EVE PICNIC PARTY OF PILGRIMS



sight of the Moab hills, her birthplace. The modern town, with its villas built by wealthy manufacturers, lies on the northern slopes; on the southern side is old Bethlehem, unchanged for centuries. Here the stately matrons walk the cobbled narrow streets, unveiled, and wearing the high mediæval coif and beautifully embroidered dresses that are peculiar to Bethlehem. In the market-place, small boys who have ridden in from Hebron guard the camels and play marbles, while their fathers bargain and argue over oranges and grain, spilling out of their great black and white striped sacks.

From the stone watch-tower, on which branches are placed in the summer heat, guard can be kept over vineyards and olive groves which spread away towards the Fields of the Shepherds lying far below.

It was this fertile district that gave Bethlehem its name—Beit-lahm, House of Bread. "And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem." The tomb that was old and revered long before Christ was born is still shown on the outskirts of the little town.

At Christmas-time all roads lead to the Church and Convents of the Nativity, that great block of buildings to which Bethlehem seems to cling when viewed from a distance. Through the tiny 4ft. door—the main entrance to the church—crush and jostle the pilgrims, the sightseers, and the great Christmas processions.

The impressive, bare, barn-like nave with its double lines of Corinthian columns, on which Crusaders carved their arms, is much as it was in the fourth century, but it has been restored several times, and our Edward IV sent lead to repair the roof. Only a few years ago a fine mosaic pavement was uncovered below the present floor, and this led to the discovery of a great circular opening through which, at one time, pilgrims must have looked down into the Grotto of the Nativity. An old font at the west end of the church bears an interesting Greek inscription: "For the memory, repose, and forgiveness of sinners, of whom the Lord knows the names."



BYZANTINE COLUMNS IN THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY



THE CAVE-STABLE OF THE NATIVITY, VISITED BY ALL SECTS  
Lamps of each Church burn continuously above the silver star embedded in the floor

Bethlehem keeps three separate Christmas Days: Latin, Greek-Orthodox, and Armenian. Each sect has its own rights in the Church of the Nativity, but the Stable is shared by all, and lamps of each Church burn continually above the silver star embedded in the floor and engraved: Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus Natus Est.

A constable is always on duty in the cave, as the different Churches have often been over-zealous of their rights, and it may be remembered that a quarrel over the silver star led, indirectly, to the Crimean War.

On Christmas Eve—all day—the people stream down the stone stairway into the Stable, murmur a prayer before the star, and so pass on and up the other side into the church again, where giant coloured witch balls hang shining from the roof in honour of the festival. Bare-legged children, sucking oranges and and blowing squeakers, tumble happily about among the tolerant adults dressed in their best and brightest native clothes, or perhaps in the dull drab colours of the west. Many have travelled from a distance and are now picnicking or squatting down patiently awaiting the great midnight service, when the Patriarch will descend to the Stable to kiss the star, and the gospel will be sung, first in Greek and then in English.

Finally, a great triumphal procession sweeps round the church, in which men, women, and children happily join singing the old hymn: "Glory in the Highest to Him Who is born to-day in a cave." At two side altars, entirely different services are conducted simultaneously by Copts and Jacobites, who, ignoring one another and the procession passing down the aisles, continue to praise God heartily in the language of Pharaoh and in Syriac. In discordant unison the voices rise above the mist of incense and candle smoke, joining with the bells that clash and clang high over head.

So Christ is born once more in Bethlehem. A fact that is of far more importance to the Christian Palestinian, at this season, than anything else that may be going on in the outside world—even a war.



OLD BETHLEHEM, UNCHANGED FOR CENTURIES, AND—



—MODERN BUILDINGS ON THE TOWN'S NORTHERN SLOPE



GUARDING CAMELS IN THE MARKET-PLACE

# ART AND DRAMA IN WENSLEYDALE

By G. BERNARD WOOD

**D**URING the last few years the twin villages of Castle Bolton and Redmire, in Wensleydale, have become the centre of a dialect drama movement and the home of a number of artists who are recognised in Yorkshire and County Durham as the Castle Bolton school. Art is wedded to drama, and the issue is a fine yet homely product whose growing importance to the folk of Wensleydale it would be difficult to over-estimate.

The Yorkshire Dales have a long association with drama. Richmond in Swaledale still retains its curiously furnished theatre where Edmund Kean played in 1819. Grassington in Wharfedale cherishes memories of both Kean and Harriet Mellon, who, as "barn-stormers," joined Tom Airey's company there, after a "season" at Skipton's small theatre known as the Hole in the Wall.

About the same period, Thomas Girtin, Turner, Cotman and other water-colour artists included these dales as part of their regular itineraries. Each would ride over the separating hills on horseback, lingering long in the Castle Bolton district before passing on to the glories of Richmond.

Such collaboration as now exists between painters and actors in Wensleydale is something new, however, and the chief reason for this fusion is that the work of both kinds of artist is largely indigenous.

The aim of the Castle Bolton and Redmire players is not to produce Shakespeare—as Tom Airey's company had done, with a strong Yorkshire accent—or even Shaw, Ibsen and the rest. Rather, through plays written by such well tried local authors as Dorothy Una Ratcliffe, President of the Yorkshire Dialect Society, Florence Bone, Watson Dyke, Muriel Smith and pre-eminently George Jackson, they aim at making Wensleydale and its teeming lore articulate. Leave Shaw and Maugham to the cities, they say; it takes Wensleydale folk to perform Wensleydale plays with all their subtleties of dialect, their mellow humour, their streaks of north-country superstition.

Mr. Fred Lawson is the leader of the Castle Bolton school of artists. A regular exhibitor at the Royal Academy, he has captured in his water-colours and sketches the spirit of the dale as few others, if any, have ever done. His wife, Muriel Metcalfe, does not limit herself to landscapes, but her studies of the Wensleydale

scene are much admired. Then there are Henrietta Lister (Mrs. Burrill-Robinson of Redmire), also a water-colourist of ability, George Graham, whose work at Winchelsea served to enhance a reputation gained at Castle Bolton, and George Jackson.

The two arts co-exist in the person of Mr. Jackson, as they do also in Mrs. Burrill-Robinson, who formerly danced with the Russian ballet in London and the provinces. Mr. Jackson's gifts find expression in individual water-colours and studies of Wensleydale characters; in homespun plays that have colour, warmth and very often a rich historical sense; and in an ability to produce these and other Wensleydale plays with exclusively local talent.

Consider some of his play themes. In *The Swan Inn* he has drawn upon dales life in the eighteenth century, staging the action in a romantic building (now simply a dwelling) known as the Swan, near Redmire. Old wives' tales that are still told about the house—tales of sorcery and hauntings, provide both atmosphere and plot.

The youthful career of Richard Kearton, the famous naturalist of neighbouring Swaledale, suggested the theme of Mr. Jackson's *The Ghyll*, whose action takes place in the beautifully wooded Apedale Ghyll that serves as a boundary between the two villages. *Scaur Head* is based on a local tragedy that occurred a few years ago during a typical dales snowstorm.

There are many other plays that bring past events and people to life again, but in his



REDMIRE TOWN HALL (left), WHERE DALES PLAYS ARE PRODUCED, AND THE 400-YEAR-OLD INN

This hall was, according to tradition, built for the Dale's Volunteers during the Napoleonic invasion scare



COTTAGE AT CASTLE BOLTON OF MR. GEORGE JACKSON, ARTIST AND PLAYWRIGHT

The road leads to Apedale Ghyll, in which the action in Mr. Jackson's *The Ghyll* takes place

latest effort Mr. Jackson propounds a modern controversy—the tourist's love of an old-world dwelling in the country, *versus* the tenant's desire to have the place made fit to live in!—in the farmhouse-kitchen attached to Marrick Priory, that little-known retreat near Grinton, in Swaledale.

Mr. Jackson sometimes writes his plays around certain persons in Castle Bolton or Redmire and then gets them to perform them. This, of course, is a departure from British Drama League methods, but the homogeneity so achieved is remarkable to witness and suggests what could be done in the way of matching local talent with local lore in almost any part of the country.

Both Watson Dyke and Florence Bone have similarly written of Wensleydale life in their plays, and the villagers like to perform them. One of Miss Bone's plays, *Brother Cuthbert's Guest*, recovers a beautiful Saxon legend connected with the early days of Ripon Cathedral, which overlooks the lower reaches of Wensleydale's river, the Ure. It is the tale of a miraculous provision of bread by a Stranger who called at the monastery one winter day. Mr. Fred Lawson always paints scenery for these productions, and prefaces the programmes (an artistic creation in themselves) with a line cut usually depicting the setting of the play.

When, in June, 1938, Dorothy Una Ratcliffe's *Mary of Scotland* in Wensleydale was produced by the Redmire players, artists again lent their aid. In addition to the back-cloth, Mr. Lawson painted a scene of the Crucifixion, and Jacob Kramer—who, though not of the Castle Bolton group, is keenly interested—painted a portrait for Mary Stuart's sitting-room in Bolton Castle. Mary was imprisoned in the Castle in 1567-69, and a private performance of the play was staged here for the convenience of Lord and Lady Bolton and their guests a week before the first Festival of Dales Plays, held at Redmire Town Hall.



BOLTON CASTLE, OWNED BY LORD AND LADY BOLTON  
Rehearsals for the plays are held in a room at the Castle



Considering the diminutive size and rural charm of Redmire, the term Town Hall may seem incongruous. Sufficient to say that the hall—traditionally built by a former Lord Bolton for the Dale's Volunteers during the Napoleonic invasion scare, and recently fitted with a well equipped stage for the Redmire and Castle Bolton players by Mr. Burrill-Robinson, the village squire—is admirable for the purpose, and is packed for each performance during the two or three-day festivals. At such times the walls of the homely theatre are always hung with pictures by the Castle Bolton group. Last June three plays, all with local settings, were produced—*The Blind Man of Hiltune* by Dorothy Una Ratcliffe, *Aunt Cartmell* by Watson Dyke, and *Teapots* by Florence Bone.

A first night at Redmire bears comparison in peace-time with a London first night. The tiny square, flanked on one side by the 400-year-old King's Arms and towered over by Pen Hill, is crammed with cars and other vehicles which have brought their owners from many parts of the northern shires. There is the same excitement, too, the same glamour, and much racy speech—but it is the speech of dales men and women, who love a good story well told and who have an instinctive feeling for the drama.

Farmers, dairymaids, quarrymen, the postman, station-master, school-mistress and scholars, together with Mrs. Burrill-Robinson (who acted Mary Stuart in Dorothy Una



MARRICK PRIORY, SWALEDALE, SETTING FOR MR. GEORGE JACKSON'S LATEST PLAY

This play propounds a controversy—the tourist's love of an old-world country dwelling versus the tenant's desire for a place fit to live in



NANCY BOSTOCK, FARMER'S DAUGHTER AND LEADING CHILD IN *THE BLIND MAN OF HILTUNE*



ROOM IN BOLTON CASTLE, WHERE *MARY OF SCOTLAND IN WENSLEYDALE* WAS PRODUCED

All Mary's entries were made through the door on the extreme right. This door leads to the bedroom occupied by Mary Stuart during her imprisonment

Ratcliffe's play) and occasionally the squire himself, are the players, and all through the spring—save for the farmers, at lambing-time—they hold their rehearsals in a room at the Castle which seems to have been the drawing-room during the last years (mid-seventeenth century) of the family's residence there.

This is only one of the ways in which Lord and Lady Bolton, owners of Bolton Castle, show their keen interest in the dual movement. Viscountess Swinton, of neighbouring Masham, also supports these cultural activities. On the first night of the 1939 festival, Lady Swinton appeared with her guests, who included Mrs. Neville Chamberlain. The play was Mr. Jackson's *The Swan Inn*, and at the end of the performance Mrs. Chamberlain told the audience how much she had enjoyed the play.

"I have heard that you are a unique company," she said, "because not only do you provide the players but also the playwright, who also designs the dresses and makes them himself."

It is true. Though somewhat reticent on this point, Mr. Jackson often makes the costumes. And he is always absolutely faithful to the period. Eighteenth-century peasant costumes for *The Swan Inn* were modelled on those being worn by some of John Wesley's open-air audience, as portrayed on an old engraving by Hutton, at Epworth.



ONE OF THE BACK-CLOTHS PAINTED BY MR. FRED LAWSON  
A Northallerton scene in Florence Bone's *Teapots*





## THE SPIRIT OF THE SOUTH

(Left) 1.—BRITANNIA

On a coin issued by Antoninus Pius, 170 A.D.

(Right) 2.—BRITANNIA REAPPEARS

Halfpenny issued by Charles II, 1673

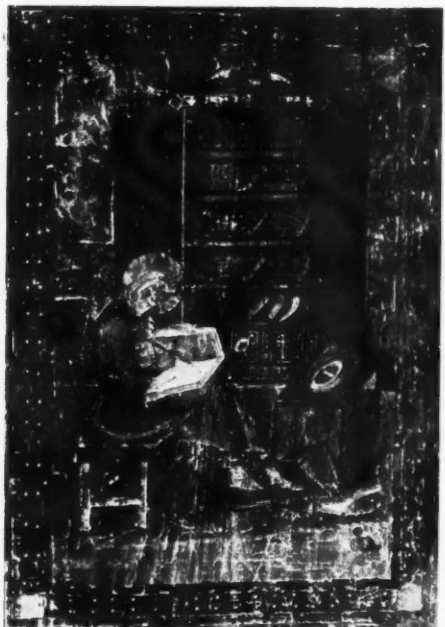


IN a time parched of arts and scholarship, the Warburg Institute has earned the warmest gratitude and praise by staging a really remarkable exhibition, *English Art and the Mediterranean*, at the Imperial Institute Galleries, South Kensington. Its theme has no ulterior political motive, its implicit moral being that civilisation is indivisible and co-operative. The Institute's method, already demonstrated with Indian art, is almost the only one possible under present conditions, namely to display specially selected photographs. This has a positive advantage over normal exhibitions, museums, books, and even foreign travel, in enabling a vast field to be covered by examples simultaneously visible, and comparisons and analogies to be impressed with a clarity unobtainable in any other way.

Everybody realises that we have owed much in art, literature, and science to Greece, Rome, Byzantium—through the Roman Occupation, the mediæval Church, the Renaissance, classical architecture and so on. And experts acknowledge it in intermediate phases. But it is true to say that the layman has never had an opportunity till now to realise visually how long and how continuously England has drawn inspiration from the sunny south. The earliest exhibits here are of the third millennium B.C. The Celtic art of the ancient Britons, which the Romans found here, itself included forms picked up by the Celts from Mediterranean sources in their passage across Europe. Then already there can be noticed the process that has gone on ever since, by which British artists and craftsmen impart their personal, romantic, often eccentric character to classical, idealised, abstract themes.

(Below, left) 5.—A SCRIBE IN HIS STUDY  
Codex Amiatinus. South (?) Italian. Seventh century

(Below, right) 6.—ST. MATTHEW  
Lindisfarne Gospel, about 700



(Above, left) 3.—BIRD AND SCROLL  
ORNAMENT

Ivory panel, Carolingian ninth-tenth centuries

(Above, right) 4.—DETAIL FROM THE  
EASBY CROSS. Ninth century



British craftsmen fashioned the shields and vessels of the Dark Ages, the monks of Lindisfarne painted their superb gospels, Alfred ordered his Jewel, or the Cosmati fashioned Edward the Confessor's tomb. In this latter instance we know that these Italian mosaicists came in the wake of Florentine merchants buying English wool.

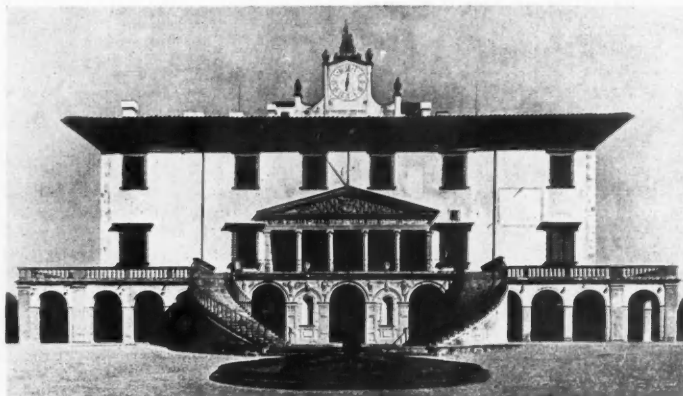
To speak vaguely of "influences" is easy. What the Warburg experts do is to produce actual analogies: to show, in many cases, a Roman, Byzantine or Italian original beside its English derivative. One of the most startling of these is the figure of Britannia on our pennies. When did she first appear on a British coin? "The first Britannia coin probably commemorated the inauguration of the building of the Roman wall by Hadrian," and they show her named and seated on a coin minted by Antoninus Pius about 170 A.D.—and almost exactly reproduced on a Charles II halfpenny of 1673 (Figs. 1 and 2).

After the Renaissance the Mediterranean connection is generally familiar. For this reason the earlier section of the exhibition is in



7.—THE QUEEN'S HOUSE, GREENWICH, BY INIGO JONES, 1616

The first English house in the full Italian manner



8.—POGGIO A CAIANO, BY SANGALLO

The model for the arrangement of the terrace and stair, and the "unique" plan, of the Queen's House

many ways the more exciting, in that vivid light is thrown on the sparse but often remarkable relics of the Dark and early Middle Ages. For example, the great Early Christian crosses such as those of Bewcastle, Ruthwell, and Easby, Anglo-Saxon illumination, and the famous relics of St. Cuthbert at Durham. The crosses, dating from after the Synod of Whitby in 677, when Northumbria became a centre of Christian art and learning, are the most splendid relics of Anglo-Saxon religious art, and their sometimes superb sculpture is shown to be closely derived from the art of Ravenna and Byzantium, though sometimes from Romano-British sculpture. A relief of the Annunciation on the Bewcastle cross ("it is doubtful whether English sculpture has ever again produced a work of such serenity") is shown to be closely similar in conception to an Armenian miniature of the tenth century. How art forms travelled from the Near East to the Far West is still mysterious, but one easily portable vehicle was undoubtedly carved ivories. The bird-and-scroll pattern so characteristic of the crosses, and especially of the Easby cross, appears identically in Carolingian ivory panels (Figs. 3 and 4), themselves derived from Near Eastern sources. Similarly in illumination, the noble figures in the Lindisfarne Gospel—earliest and most famous of all English illustrated manuscripts (about 700 A.D.)—are shown to be closely related in every detail of attitude and costume to the Codex Amiatinus, probably made for Cassiodorus in South Italy in the seventh century (Figs. 5 and 6). Bede has left it on record that a MS. of Cassiodorus was still in use at Wearmouth, and much appreciated, in his time.

And so through the centuries. The lovely late Anglo-Saxon drawings of Alfred's time have a Byzantine origin (the silks wrapping the body of St. Cuthbert may have been a present from Haroun-al-Raschid in Bagdad); the wall painting of Christ in Majesty at Winchester (thirteenth century) is compared with the famous mosaic of the same subject in Palermo Cathedral, circa 1180, when an Englishman was Archbishop there; Chaucer's borrowings from the Decameron can be matched in the early scientific treatises of the time.

After the Renaissance the exhibition concentrates more on analogies between individual works—Holbein's influence on early Tudor decoration: the debt of such buildings as Burghley to François Ier's *Château de Madrid*. Inigo Jones's actual sources for the first of all English Palladian buildings, the Queen's House at Greenwich, are shown to be compounded from two buildings by Scamozzi and Sangallo, one of which (Poggio a Caiano by Sangallo) similarly consists of two blocks linked by a bridge. An interesting section analysing some of Wren's sources, including Italian and Flemish

prototypes, might have been supplemented by reference to the French architect le Pautre whom Professor Richardson recently showed to have given Wren many ideas.

After that the Grand Tour filled Englishmen's heads with "high Roman" ideas. Reynolds himself was their most active advocate, but in his youth he caricatured itinerant English connoisseurs as humorously as did Hogarth, whose *Sigismunda* in the Tate Gallery was nevertheless cribbed from a painting of St. Magdalen by Furini now in Vienna. Adam's characteristic decoration has its prototype in late Roman stucco-work such as that in the Valerii tombs in the Via Latina; the "nightmare effects" of Sir John Soane's Museum in the romantic confusion of Piranesi's engravings; William Blake fused Michelangelesque sublimity with the swirling patterns of some atavistic Celtic strain in him. That queer fellow Fuseli, himself a Swiss, who found Blake so convenient to plagiarise, is revealed also as imitating the ghost-like drawings of Bandinelli (about 1550), and in a delicious drawing *The Selling of Cupids* (Fig. 10) to have almost copied a fresco of the same subject at Pompeii.

One cause of the subsequent movement away from the classical heritage is given as the monopolising of that field by the archaeologist at the expense of the artist. The changing attitude can be seen in the fact that the Elgin Marbles were not restored. "Antiquity" became something remote and venerable, not a tradition in which every good artist felt himself to be working. As to the future, a note in the catalogue leaves the issue open "whether the spirit of the South, which has impressed itself on the civilisation of this country in continuous waves for the last 2,500 years, may not one day become again a vitalising force." An answer is surely given by the recurrent rhythm revealed in this exhibition. Vast as is the North's debt to the South, an equally impressive, if less aesthetically moving, exhibition could illustrate the converse influence: the North's (and West's) gifts to the South of Gothic, romantic literature and drama, engineering, science, and Parliamentary government.

C. H.



9.—REYNOLDS, 1751. CARICATURE OF ENGLISH CONNOISSEURS IN ROME

(National Gallery of Ireland)



10.—HENRY FUSELI (1741-1825). THE SELLING OF CUPIDS

Subject taken from a fresco in Pompeii. (A. F. Blunt collection, London)



# AN ENGLISH VILLAGE

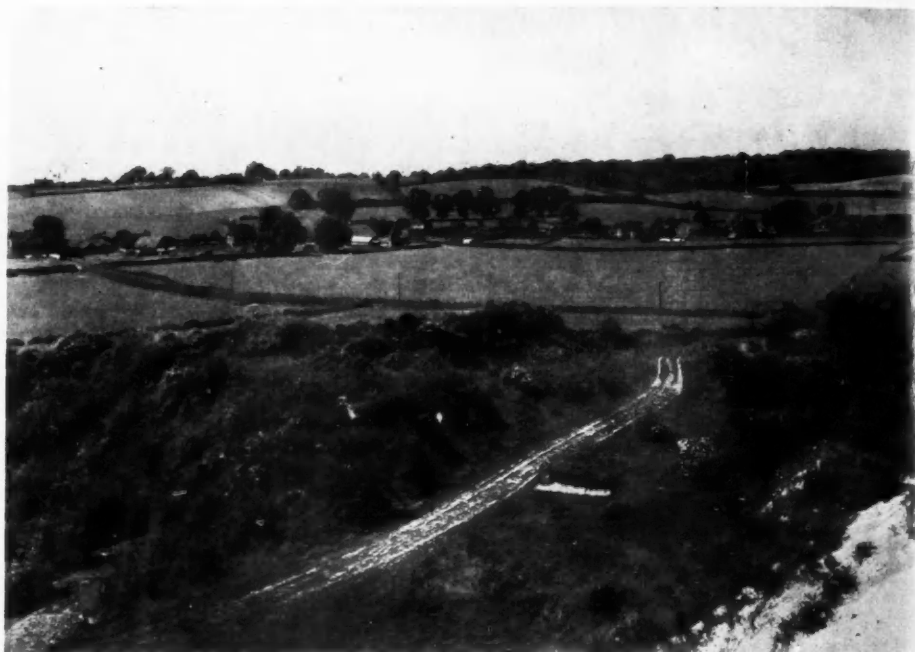
## FROYLE, HAMPSHIRE—II

*A Georgian village whose yeoman farmers charmingly re-housed themselves on the profits of wheat and hops*

**F**ROYLE'S name, the pundits say, is derived from the old English *Freohyll* which may mean "the hill of Frea," the goddess commemorated in Friday.

The upper and lower parts of the village are separated by a spur of the Downs, ending to the south in a hill now called Saintbury (Fig. 1), which is, perhaps, how the nuns of Winchester christened Frea's Hill. The Pilgrims' Way, which here joins Upper and Lower Froyle, climbs over Saintbury's southward slope through a grove of beeches before meeting at right angles the lane up the valley towards Odiham on the other side of the Downs, along which Lower Froyle is spread.

The upper village has a nucleus formed by the church and Manor Place, and has contained several properties of such size as to have ranked as sub-manors at various times. Lower Froyle consists in a succession of yeomen's houses, mostly reconstructed about 1760, linked by thatched cottages of clunch and brick, some of them bearing dates between 1712 and 1737, the various holdings running back up the sides of the valley. This formation suggests a relatively late period of development, subsequent to the earliest enclosures and in contrast to the typical Saxon village grouped round a green and surrounded by the common fields. It is not unlikely that in the early Middle Ages much of the downland was sheep-walk. But by Charles II's time, when John Aubrey tells us that Farnham had become "the greatest market in England for wheat," Froyle farmers had long since turned over to arable. Another change since the Middle Ages, which undoubtedly contributed to Froyle's prosperity, was the cultivation of hops on the Greensand clay in the lower land. This largely took the place of the orchards to which there are mediæval references. In 1236 the Abbess of St. Mary's, Winchester, who owned Froyle Place, sold three tuns of cider at Froyle for 21s.; and in another year, out of four tuns made, two were retained by the abbess for "bever" on the manor—incidentally an interesting appearance of the term by which "elevenses" are still called in



1.—THE LOWER FROYLE VALLEY AND SAINTBURY HILL

many parts. In 1800 there were 141 acres of hops in Froyle, and in 1855 a village directory states that "there are hop-yards on all the farms." Nearly each of them still has an oast, usually a single one, though Husseys, illustrated last week, has four, grouped rather unusually round a square central building. Hodges (Fig. 2) and Silvesters in Lower Froyle have single oasts. The higher hopfields have all been grubbed, but hops are still a considerable crop on the larger farms in the Wey Valley, and Bonhams (Fig. 4), Coldrey (Fig. 3) and Place Farm, now Froyle Manor (Fig. 7) have large groups of oasts.

After about a century of high arable and hop profits the standard of living had risen to a degree when the timber-framed sixteenth-

century yeomen's houses ceased to suffice a community in which the farmer was called "gent." on his grave. A phase of almost universal re-building followed. Silvesters had been enlarged and re-faced in stone and weather-tiling in 1674. But other renovated farms of which the dates are ascertainable are after 1760, suggesting that it took three or four generations from the rise of high arable farming to change a yeoman into a small squire. The progress of several of these families can be traced. The Burningshams, who began as yeoman farmers at Husseys in about 1670, refaced it as a "manor house" in 1764, and joined Silvesters, Brocas, Rock House and other farms into a compact estate, then in about 1820 moved to Upper Froyle and converted another farm into the "gentleman's residence" of Froyle House. A Froyle yeoman family still farming actively is that of Mr. J. C. Messenger of Bonhams (Figs. 4 and 5). Their name first appears in the registers in 1755, when Thomas Messenger lived in Heath's Farm in Upper Froyle, and was overseer of Yarnhams on the top of the Downs. The Heaths, who were Quakers, had recently vacated their old home for the larger Bonhams Farm, which Thomas Heath probably re-built in about 1730. The name Bonhams, like Yarnhams, is of Pre-Conquest origin.

Bonhams, visible from the Farnham-Alton road (Fig. 4), is one of the most charming of the Froyle yeomen's houses. Actually it is in Holybourne parish on the southward edge of Froyle, and in the shrunken Hundred of Neatham—now represented by a mill on the Wey, but at the Conquest a royal manor possessed of a market, the Hundred comprising the whole of the later Alton and Selborne Hundreds, and originally the manor of Froyle itself.

To digress a moment from Froyle. The pre-Conquest importance of the now obscure Neatham, which both Edward the Confessor and the Conqueror thought worth keeping in their own hands, is probably accounted for by the presence there of a very large entrenched hill-top camp. This lies in the



2.—HODGES, LOWER FROYLE; A YEOMAN'S FARM REFRONTED IN 1766





3.—COLDREY HOUSE. THE EAST FRONT, ADDED IN THE LATE EIGHTEENTH OR EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY



4.—THE SOUTH FRONT OF BONHAMS: MELLOW BRICKWORK OF ABOUT 1730



5.—BONHAMS, THE ENTRY SIDE, LOOKING TOWARDS MONKS' WOOD BEYOND

solemn recesses of Monks' Wood, where Herb Paris grows and Gilbert White found the wild hellebore, about a mile south of the Wey, the thick woodland making it hard to trace the full extent of the vallums. But from the way it stands up over the surrounding country, it was obviously a place of note in the early Saxon period when the Hundreds were demarcated, and so continued until after the Conquest, when its importance shifted to Alton, and the manor was given to Waverley Abbey, the fort, overgrown with trees, being remembered only as "the monks' wood." Somehow or other their tithes from Neatham and from Bonhams, the chief farm in the emaciated hundred, now go to the trustees of the Algebra Lecture at Cambridge.

Bonhams is E-shaped in plan, the entrance in the very narrow space between the wings, and, from the structure of the roof, is evidently a re-facing of an earlier building. The date 1617 occurs on a window-frame in the north wing, and may be its original date. The vermilion brick walls, the roof shot with golden lichen on the southern face (Fig. 4), retain many of the original casements, though sashes were inserted in the windows of the principal rooms probably about 1790, when "Adam" fireplaces were installed in some of the rooms. The lack of any bell-cast in the slope of the roof makes the elevation a little clumsy, but the building as a whole is of great charm; a fine oak staircase and other details suggest an earlier date for the re-facing than most of the Georgian houses in Froyle, perhaps 1730-40.

Mr. Messenger has the old advertisement for the auction at the Swan Inn, Alton, on July 26, 1836, between three and five in the afternoon, "of the singularly eligible and compact capital residence, commanding noble and extensive views, for many years in the occupation of Mr. William Heath." Among the attractions were its being

bounded chiefly by a fine Trout stream called the Wey which runs through a considerable portion of the estate and the excellent game preserves of Sir T. C. Miller, Bt; . . . at a very convenient

distance from the High Road from London to Southampton, to and from which Coaches pass day and night; . . . distant only a morning's drive from the Metropolis and other principal watering places.

The London-Alton coach was called *The Voice*, and it was scheduled to take just under six hours.

At the auction Bonhams was bought by Mr. Coldham Knight, banker of Farnham; a Messenger farmed it from West End (Fig. 7), Bonhams being inhabited by labourers until the late Mrs. Messenger went into residence there and, in 1918, acquired the freehold.

Froyle Manor, *alias* West End and also Place Farm, adjoins the grounds of Froyle Place, and, although now a private residence, has a big group of oasts that exhale a drowsy perfume in September from the hops on West End Farm. The house, faced in early Georgian red brick, is a high, steeply roofed building the evolution of which is difficult to deduce; several of the rooms are panelled in bolelection wainscot which, with the staircase (Fig. 7), can scarcely be later than 1730. William Draper succeeded Gauden Draper as squire at Froyle Place in 1710: a big improvement of the home farmhouse may have been undertaken at that date, possibly to convert it into a dower house. An unusual feature of the staircase is the decoration of the under surface of the upper flight with crudely painted picturesque landscapes, recalling distantly the kind of *grisaille* scenes introduced by Thornhill in some of the lower surfaces of his painted hall and staircase at Stoke Edith, *circa* 1725. The house is now the home of the Hon. Geoffrey Parsons.

William Draper of Froyle Place, whose family had inherited it from the Gaudens, died in 1765, and his heirs were duly fined £5 for failing to bury him in woollens, according to the statute not repealed till 1814. A contributory factor to the outburst of building after 1760 may have been the break-up of the Froyle Place estate towards the end of his life. The Burningshams re-fronted Husseys in 1764, and Hodges, in Lower

Froyle, is dated 1766 (Fig. 2). Its front to the road, added to a sixteenth-century house, is the most accomplished piece of brick building in the village. The front rooms and a roomy staircase hall are plainly wainscoted. There is record of a Richard Hodges in Froyle in 1657, but it is doubtful what family was living there at the time of the re-building. The house was carefully repaired by Professor W. G. Constable, and is now the residence of Mrs. R. E. Moore.

Another Georgianised farm is Brocas in Lower Froyle, commemorating a mediæval tenure in its name. The re-building was probably due to Joseph Tarrant, living here in 1750, or James, his son, who married Ann Westbrook in 1777. A century previously Newmans were living at Brocas. The family still farms actively in the district, and in Froyle



6.—COLDREY. THE FRONT DOOR (ABOUT 1550) AND STAIRCASE

is probably commemorated by a holding now called Nomansland; "Newmans Land" is referred to in 1751, and William Newman of Froyle was a magistrate in 1784. The Westbrook family, probably deriving their name from the manor of Alton Westbrook, have been in Lower Froyle since at least 1653, and are farming there still. The Brownjohn family, now farmers and general store-keepers, appear in 1729. Clunch and brick-built houses in Lower Froyle bear the following dates and initials: E. & R. K. 1712; R. C. 1719; T. & W. C. 1724; A. C. 1737; but it has not been possible to identify the persons commemorated.

An important property adjoining Lower Froyle is Coldrey. Like Bonhams at the other end of the parish, it is actually outside its boundaries, having always been "extra parochial," and, indeed, erected into a parish of its own in 1860, though there is no sign of a church, and it is now incorporated in Bentley parish. The manor was the Bishop of Winchester's, but always leased to tenants. Though the east front (Fig. 3), visible from the main road, is a charming late Georgian façade—one of the latest re-frontings in Froyle—a wing running back at right angles to it, containing the present entrance (Fig. 6), is very much earlier. The doorway may be of *circa* 1550, the staircase, seen beyond, about 1700, and the great open fireplace (Fig. 10), in what was probably the kitchen, cannot be much later than 1550, possibly a century earlier. The builder seems to have been anxious about the wide span of the opening: not only did he incorporate the customary relieving arch above it, but the wooden beams introduced below and above the relieving arch appear to be in the nature of ties or "chimney bars," designed to divert weight from the main arch.

In the fourteenth century Coldrey was held by the Colrithe family, the names being evidently connected. A daughter took it to the Holts, Thomas Holt of Coldrey dying in 1458. His heiress married Edward Berkeley, whose daughter, Laura, brought it to Lord Mountjoy. In Henry VIII's reign William Lord Mountjoy sold the manor to Richard Lyster, who died in 1553, his son selling it to John Lighe, Esq., in 1557. Lighe, or Leigh, may well have built the old part of the house, was buried in Froyle Church in



7.—FROYLE MANOR (PLACE FARM). EARLY GEORGIAN STAIRCASE WITH LANDSCAPE DECORATION BENEATH IT





8.—FROYLE COTTAGE. A LATE GEORGIAN SCHOOL-HOUSE



9.—SHRUBBERY HOUSE. A GEORGIAN WING TO A SMALL FARMHOUSE, ABOUT 1740

1557, and his descendants retained Coldrey till 1829, when Thomas Leigh sold the property to Sir Humphry May. Thenceforward local yeoman families were in possession, probably as tenant farmers; an Eggar, now squires of Bentley, in 1683; Robert Baldwin of Coldrey died in 1729; and in 1756 Thomas Rothwell of Coldrey married Elizabeth Burningham of Husseys. The front may be as late as about 1815; the principal rooms were rather charmingly redecorated in the style of that period. By 1850 it was being farmed by Mrs. Harriet Lee; in 1939 Colonel Nigel Duncan, whose family had owned Coldrey for two generations, sold the property to Mr. C. Mann, who has recently made considerable alterations. Coldrey lies off the main Farnham-Alton road, where the lane from Binsted and Isington bridge to Odiham *via* Lower Froyle crosses it. Following the main road towards Alton, Highway House (Mrs. Linzee) stands back on the right, the "Highways Farm" of eighteenth-century records re-built from designs by Mr. Walter Sarrel.

Beyond the dip in the road called Quarry Bottom, from which the grey sandstone used in the village came, is Shrubbery House (Fig. 9), the home of the late Sir Hubert Miller, Bt., of Froyle. Originally a cottage or small farm, a delightful addition was made to it, at right angles to the road, in mid-Georgian times. This front, the only instance of bay windows in Froyle, no doubt originally had the front door in the centre of it. Considerable additions were made by Sir Hubert Miller, who also laid out charming gardens sloping to the Wey, which here runs at the bottom of a picturesque valley. A little farther on is the Hen and Chicken Inn, on the corner of the turning to Upper Froyle. It is an attractive, little-

altered, brick Georgian house, with posting stables at the back, the doorway of which is similar to that of Hodges, indicating a date of building about 1765. The inn is first referred to in 1767, after which the parish records contain periodic references such as :

1772	Spent at Parish Meeting at the Hen	s.	d.
	& Chicken	...	18 0
	Sugar, tea and a jugg.		

Such items are in contrast to usage in neighbouring Bentley, where relief was refused in 1774 to any of the poor who drank tea or frequented the public-house. Other items of some interest are :

1767	1 lb. of hops for the parish beer	0	0	8
1769	Beer at Sarah Hawking's burial			
	as was forgot to be charged	0	2	8
1771	5½ lbs. of Hop bagging to make			
	Jas. Newman a bed	...	0	4 1½
1773	Catching Sparrows	...	0	1 0
	Making a frock and shirt	...	0	1 4
1780	Paid for spinning wheel for			
	Robert Blunden's daughter	0	2	0

1775 (during an epidemic of small-pox 1774-77) Paid Thomas Newman by order at Church for Inoculation of himself and family ... 2 2 0

The house in the upper village known as Froyle Cottage (Fig. 8) was the Dame's School for Upper Froyle till 1868. Internal fittings of the house point to a date about 1790 for its construction, and a largish room projecting at right angles to the front might have been a schoolroom. It is certainly a contrast to the present Church school, in the thirteenth-century style, completed in 1868, which is frequently mistaken by strangers for the church. The vicarage, next door to it, is a larger version of Froyle Cottage tacked on to an earlier building of sixteenth-century origin. It is a rambling, homely, gentlemanly house with large stables, eloquent of the days described by Parson Woodford, where the Rev. Richard Follen (1773) was vicar for 30 years, to be followed in 1804 till 1864 by the Rev., afterwards Sir, Thomas Combe Miller, both of whom employed curates who lived in the vicarage.

During the Rev. Sir Thomas's incumbency Anglicanism was enforced by his double authority of parson and squire, though it is perhaps significant that, in spite of this, a Wesleyan meeting-house was built in Lower Froyle in 1841, still in the Georgian tradition of clunch and brick. Indeed, in this village of Georgian England, nurtured by corn and hops on a Saxon highway, almost the only later imprint is the eddy of the Oxford Movement, that has embellished its cottages with a hierarchy of saints. Perhaps the *genius* of Saintbury is to be traced in this, still seeking to efface the memory of Frea's Hill in Froyle.

CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY.



10.—COLDREY. THE GREAT BRICK FIRE-ARCH OF THE FORMER KITCHEN, PROBABLY ABOUT 1550

## THE WOBURN ABBEY ANIMALS—V

## RARE WATERFOWL PRESERVED

Written and Illustrated by FRANCES PITT

**T**HERE are few words in the English language more dangerous to use than "unique." There are so few things in the world that really are unique, and the word is overworked on subjects that are not in the least unique. However, it seems possible to employ it justly in writing of the Red-breasted geese at Woburn Abbey.

Geese are queer birds as regards nesting in captivity and under semi-captive conditions. A few species breed freely, some have bred exceptionally and some will not breed at all. The little Brent goose gets delightfully tame, yet nest it will not. The same might be said of the rare Red-breasted goose were it not for the Red-breasts at Woburn and one or two rather hesitating records from elsewhere.

The Red-breasted goose, let me remind readers, is that lovely species, strikingly patterned in black, white and rich chestnut, that to the waterfowl enthusiast is the greatest of prizes. It is both beautiful and rare, though it has been known from an early period—witness its portraits on certain Egyptian monuments. It has always been an illusive bird, difficult to obtain and very difficult to breed.

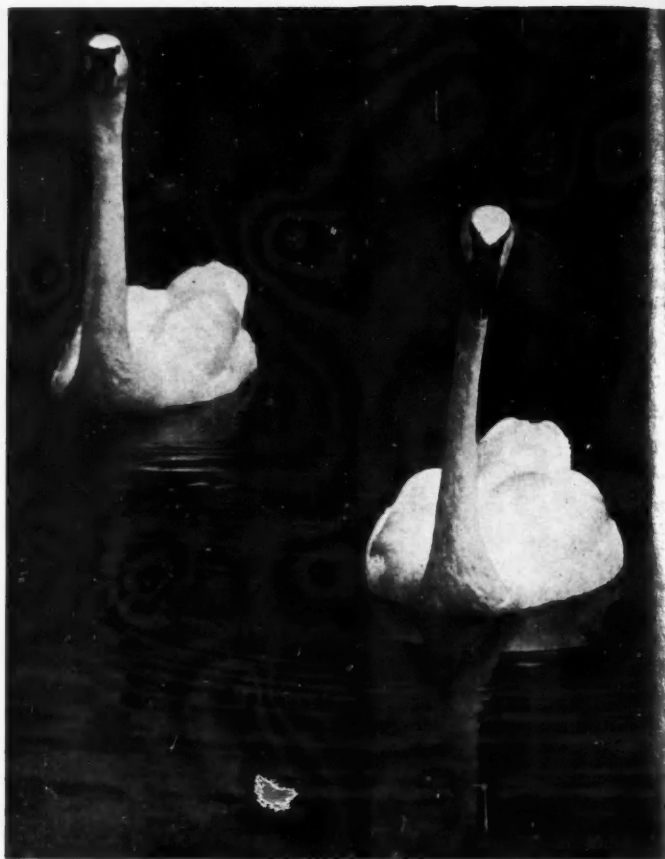
It has been suggested that many of the geese need the stimulus of the long Arctic summer day before they can lay eggs. Certainly most of them seek northern breeding quarters. A few travellers, for instance Seebohm and Leybourn Popham, found the Red-breasted goose nesting sparingly in the wilds of Siberia, in the Yenisei district at the foot of cliffs, but recent efforts to locate even non-breeding haunts have been less successful—witness Peter Scott's unavailing trip to the Caspian. In Europe, let me add, the Red-breast is known chiefly as a rare straggler at migration time, being most likely to turn up in such goose paradises as that Hungarian plain called the Hortbaggy.

A small flock of Red-breasted geese was formed some years ago at Woburn, where they lived for a number of years without nesting. Then, when all hope of their doing so might well have been abandoned, the unexpected happened and goslings were reared. It was as if a spell had been broken. The birds began to breed freely, and each successive season saw

the flock added to until it assumed goodly proportions. The keeper told me over 200 had been reared.

As I saw the geese, on a warm July day, swimming on a pool bathed in sunlight and backed by tall woodland trees, with grassy meadowland sloping down to the near side of the water, they afforded a beautiful spectacle. Their rich colouring and definite markings, so unusual in this group of birds, their small, neat, almost duck-like forms, gleamed jewel-like as they floated on the still water, green with the reflection of trees and bushes. They looked like painted toys rather than real birds, but their active movements showed how very much alive they were.

There are several sheets of water at Woburn, and these allow the various bigger and more pugnacious geese and swans to be kept apart. It was on another pool that I saw the grey shapes and white heads of a party of that fine North American species the Emperor goose, likewise the pure white shapes of Snow geese. But these, though they caught the eye, were not so easily caught by the camera, for they viewed me and my instrument with suspicion and refused to be lured near the shore;



A SPECIES WHOSE CONTINUED SURVIVAL IS DOUBTFUL  
—THE TRUMPETER SWAN

The beaks of this North American rarity are completely black

they cruised at a distance and kept practically out of range.

It was while I was gazing at the white forms of the Snow geese that the comparatively ordinary spectacle of a large flock of Canada geese came into sight. The birds were full-winged, semi-wild ones, free to come and go as they pleased.

I must here interrupt my account of things seen to remark that my inspection of the waterfowl was carried out on a very hot mid-summer day, when the birds were by no means disposed to display themselves and at a time of year when many were either breeding or moulting. Many drakes, for instance, were already in eclipse and anxious to keep out of sight. Hence if I say little of the ducks and smaller waterfowl it was not because of any lack of species or of numbers, but because it was the wrong moment to see them and do justice to them. Moreover, certain sheets of water where many interesting ducks had their headquarters were being disturbed by timber-fellers and other workmen busy on their shores, to the natural annoyance of the birds. The result was that many species it would have been nice to interview declined to exhibit themselves or come within camera range.

Despite this disturbance there was a crowd of geese, ducks and swans on the big lake and many a full-winged bird was flying around. A great feature of the collection is the home-bred birds left unpinioned and free to do what they please, to fly around and fly afar if they choose to do so.

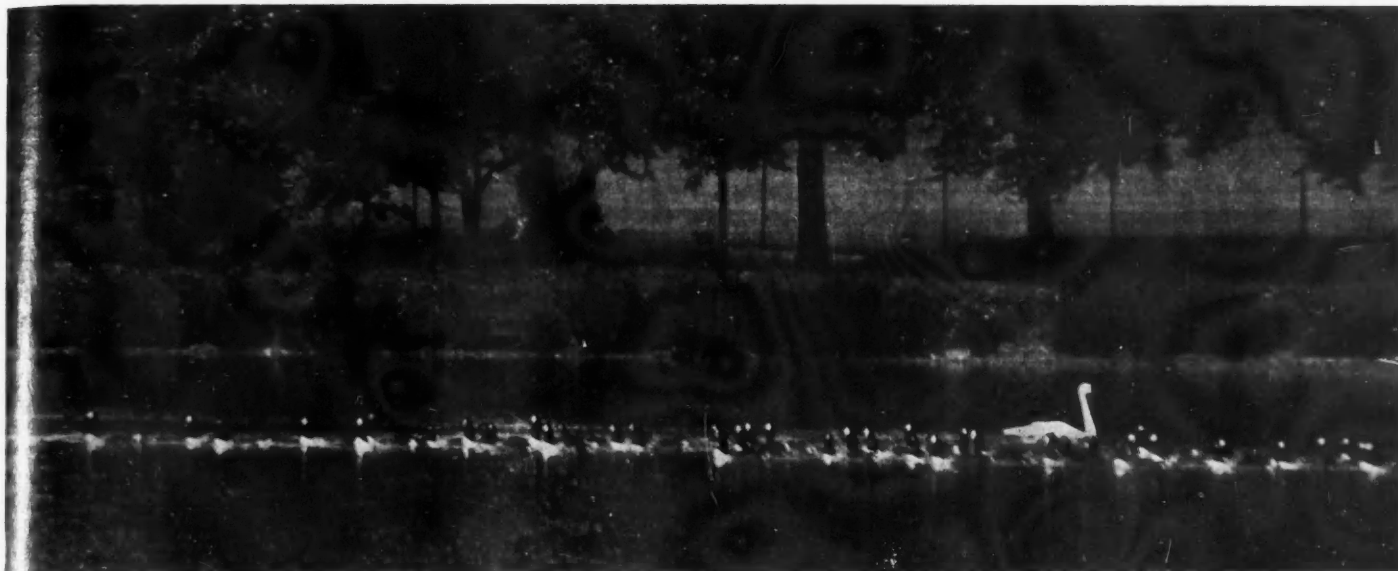
It was on one of the lakes in the park that three great white swans caught and held the attention. Their straight, rather rigid necks (they looked as if they had swallowed poker) recalled the Whooper swan, but these were bigger birds and had totally black beaks. They were specimens of that North American rarity the Trumpeter swan, a bird now so rare in a wild state that its continued survival is doubtful, though possibly it may be kept going in such collections as that at Woburn.

In this connection I must repeat the remarks made in earlier articles concerning the Duke of



AUSTRALIAN BLACK SWANS OF SOOTY HUE AND WITH CURIOUSLY  
"CRIMPED" FEATHERS





A FLOCK OF CANADA GEESE—FULL-WINGED, SEMI-WILD AND FREE TO GO WHERE THEY PLEASE

Bedford's birds and mammals, about the great service rendered to zoology by such collections. Ornithologists owe the Duke particular gratitude for preserving birds such as the Red-breasted goose and the Trumpeter swan.

Whatever my difficulties with smaller and more elusive fowl the swans gave me no trouble, and I got all the photographs of them that I required, particularly of a pair of Trumpeters that lorded it over another lake. They seemed quite anxious to pose and "have their pictures taken." A pair of the smaller Bewick's swans which shared their domain were not so eager to be in the foreground, and I had to do some careful stalking.

With regard to approachability, my grumble about the Australian black swans was that they were too friendly. They would come sailing up so close that it was difficult to get a snapshot that did justice to their stately persons, sooty plumage and curiously "crimped" feathers. Although from an avicultural point of view this black swan is a common fowl, to the ordinary person it is a startling and dramatic bird, black instead of the conventional white and with such a strange ruffled plumage. From the photographic standpoint I would rather deal with an ordinary white swan. A black bird in a strong light with strong reflections in the water is too apt to result in a "soot and whitewash" study. However, the three with which I was contending eventually took up a fairly good position and I pressed swiftly upon my shutter release. The result is shown on the previous page.

To revert from the particular to the general, that summer-day inspection of the Woburn waterfowl left me with many lovely memory pictures.

The first was a view across the big lake in the park, with the great house lying stately in the background, water rippling to my feet and a diversity of ducks, geese and swans swimming in the middle distance. Another was of a cool green pool, with tall shady trees about it and white swans floating in dignified procession across it. Yet a third was of a long lake winding between wooded banks and dreaming birds dozing in mid-water.

They floated so quietly that they hardly disturbed the water, and their reflections scarcely trembled beneath them. I stood on the shore, where gnats danced, midges bit, and flies hummed, watched the peaceful scene and thought that these waterfowl were indeed fortunate. No foes could here disturb them. In this sanctuary they were safe from fox and otter, and from that most deadly foe of all, the man with a gun. They could live out their lives in peaceful security so different from the anxious watchfulness which is ever the lot of geese and ducks in the wild.

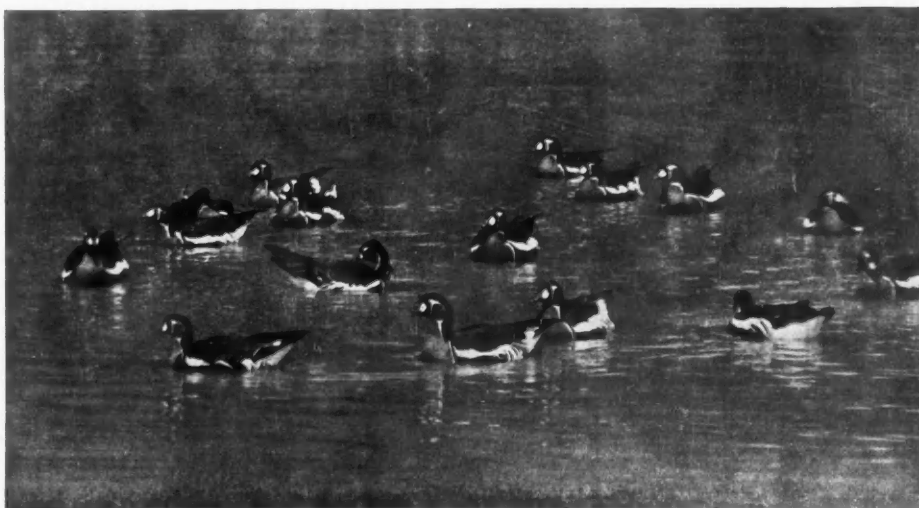
What a contrast we find when we compare the strained existence of wild birds with that of the birds in a carefully protected place like Woburn. They know they are safe and they rest tranquilly, sure of their sanctuary and at peace with the world. No apprehension disturbs them, the blessing of security, now so lament-

ably lacking in the human world, is theirs, and they can afford to doze and dream not only on summer days but on winter ones as well. Once more I thought there was gratitude due to the Duke, this time from the birds that occupy his sanctuary, for they owe him much.

Reluctantly did I turn from such things, as reluctantly as I prepare to close my description of them. Before doing so I must mention some birds, not waterfowl, but tall rheas wandering among the deer in the park, that I thought could be snapshotted at any moment.

There is no knowing what birds will do. Those tall creatures cast one glance at the car, at me and the camera, and walked off. I did take a long-distance snapshot of them in the end, but they required more careful stalking than even the deer.

In conclusion I must express my gratitude to the Duke of Bedford for his kindness in allowing me to visit Woburn Abbey and see his collection of birds and mammals, and my thanks to those at Woburn who did so much for me.

TO THE WATERFOWL ENTHUSIAST THE GREATEST OF PRIZES  
The rare Red-breasted geese, "like painted toys"

TALL RHEAS WHICH WANDER AMONG THE DEER IN THE PARK

# ON THE LINE

By BERNARD DARWIN

I WAS writing a little while ago of St. Annes, of the thrill of getting a first sight of the links near Ansdell Station, and of the fear, often justified, that on the morrow, one might be slicing on to that railway line at the outgoing holes. From that my mind jumped to the course to which I have constantly repaired after St. Annes—on Society tours—namely Formby. There also there is a railway line to the right of the first fairway. Then I began to think of all the other well-known courses in which a railway plays its part, sometimes very important, and the list seemed a long one. We think of a golf course as a stretch of wild, solitary country, and yet how often this rather prosaic and unlovely badge of civilisation bounds the course if it does not positively infringe on it.

There is St. Andrews to begin with. For all the last breathlessly exciting space before we reach it we are travelling along the edge of golf and the railway reaches of course its chief glory at the sixteenth hole. Cross over thence to the West of Scotland and we seem to be skirting golf courses almost all the way from Glasgow. Barassie, Gales, Bogside and so we come to Troon and somewhere out at the far end of the course is a tee near the railway to which a tradition belongs. It is here that an engine is supposed to have waited, snorting and puffing, to see Miss Wethered drive, and she, being subsequently consoled with on its conduct, enquired "What engine?" I have heard the story given to other lines and other courses, but Troon shall have it.

And so we get on to Prestwick, seeing the course first near Monkton station and seeing the railway in its full glory at the first hole, where it is possible, horribly possible, to put either our first or our second shot on the line. Incidentally a friend of mine once did both and yet holed out in two; his first shot bounded back on to the course, his second bounded back on to the green and ran into the hole and he won the medal.

The great trinity of Kentish links, Sandwich, Princes and Deal, have no railways, but Rye over the Sussex border has at least got its little Decauville line which can play a part. I remember once, in a University match, there a young friend of mine having only one possible means at his disposal by which he could fail to win the sixteenth hole, namely to hook his second round his neck on to that miserable little line. He did it with precision, and I remember it painfully well because Oxford won the match.

My own Aberdovey has one of the best railway holes in the world, the sixteenth. It is very easy to get on to the line there; it is not very difficult at the sixth; it is possible, though highly improbable, at several of the holes. Indeed it is a sacred article of belief that on one windy day a certain schoolmaster sliced on to that line at each one of the first nine holes. It was a very windy day and he was playing with a gutty ball which was particularly amenable to a wind.

Turning inland, no golfer can ever have been in a train bound for Southampton without looking out of the window at the fourth hole at Woking, with the little bunker, like the Principal's Nose, in the middle of the fairway, tempting us to take the narrow way nearest the line. That hole whirled out of sight for a second and then comes the sixth green with its back to the line. I am bound to say that there is here a considerable margin of error and only Mr. Edward Blackwell is supposed to have made so great an under-estimate of his powers as to carry right over the green and on to the embankment. Soon afterwards West Hill comes flitting by and then Bramshot, though I do not think there is any great fear of actually getting on the line at either.

And then—oh! there are so many courses for which I always look out of the window: Oxhey and Sandy Lodge, Beaconsfield and Denham, and a certain course at Harrow on which I have never played, but over which I manoeuvred at the beginning of the last war. The sight of it always makes me feel out of breath, as if I had been doubling and helping a stout friend over a hedge, on which he would otherwise have remained impaled. For that

matter and if it comes to war, by far the best hole that I laid out on the Vardar Marshes in Macedonia had a railway in it—a diagonal tee shot over it, and then a second along a narrow strath between the line and the road. By using the word "strath" I endeavour to give it a Scottish flavour and indeed it was just the hole that one might find at St. Andrews.

I will not prolong the list; let others amuse themselves by thinking of their favourite railroads. It is at any rate clear that the shining lines of metals are the making of many good golfing holes and some great ones. Yet *prima facie* they are not, it must be admitted, the most exciting of golfing hazards, for they are always out of bounds nowadays, and so the liability they entail is limited. This was not so once; if one was on the line at the sixteenth at St. Andrews one had to play off it, and all the world knows how, in one of his championship victories there, Braid put his second on to the line, found his ball in a horrid place against a sleeper and miraculously got out at the second attempt. At Prestwick there used to be an odd and unsatisfactory rule. If at the first hole one sliced into the line one was allowed to drop under penalty of a stroke opposite the spot where the ball had crossed the railway wall. It was unsatisfactory because no one could tell exactly where that spot was, and according as it was a few yards farther from or nearer to

the tee it was possible or impossible for the player to carry the cross bunker in front of the green and to "scramble" a five after all.

I remember very well an incident that I saw there at the Amateur Championship of 1899. Mr. Hilton and the late Mr. J. R. Gairdner had tied; they set out for the nineteenth and Mr. Hilton pushed his tee shot over the wall. A well-known local pundit adjudicated as to the place he should drop; he played a fine brassy shot and got his five. Mr. Gairdner did not quite manage a four, the hole was halved and Mr. Hilton won at the twentieth. There arose a fierce argument as to whether the local pundit had not been too lenient. It was the kind of argument bound to arise unless somebody happened to be standing at the exact spot where the ball crossed the wall, and in short there could hardly have been a worse rule.

There is, to me at least, something particularly daunting about a railway line, a horrid sense of inevitability in that one will not only lose the hole but almost certainly the ball also. It is in that respect like the river at Pau; as soon as the ball was in the water the small caddies would cry, with some apparent satisfaction, that it was gone "à Bayonne." On busy railway lines at any rate it is not very good fun to hunt for a ball, apart from the fact that it entails penalties for trespassing. So there goes our poor ball with stroke and distance as well, and the other fellow meanly gives the line a very wide berth. In fact I should define a brave man as one who, having a railway on his right, aims straight at it and plays for a hook.

## THE OUTLOOK FOR THE TURF

THOUGH, at the moment of writing, no intimation has been issued by the Jockey Club as to the flat-racing fixtures that are likely to be held during the coming year, it can be taken for granted that the itinerary will, provisionally, be the same as it was in 1941 with Newmarket as the centre and odd meetings at other venues as circumstances allow. Actually, considering the times and the difficulties connected with them, there is little to cavil at in this.

### WAR-TIME CENTRALISATION

Some there are, and the "some" are more than a few, who would wish this war-time centralisation to be continued in peace-time, but in my opinion, and it is that of one who regards racing merely as a test—but a very, very essential one—of the excellence or otherwise of a thoroughbred, it would be a great mistake. The very sameness of the track and the environment would detract from the performances of a horse, whose racing excellence and the value of whose breeding should surely be gauged by his adaptability to various courses and distances.

A horse must, undoubtedly, be a good one to win substitute races for the Two Thousand Guineas, the Derby, the St. Leger and the Ascot Gold Cup on Newmarket Heath, but it is impossible to compare him with one who has earned brackets in the real races at their real venues. To one who knows Newmarket, Epsom, Doncaster and Ascot and their individual peculiarities the difference is obvious and enormous; to do away with these venues for the sake of convenience would be to lower the standard of the British thoroughbred and so, eventually, lead to a deterioration in bloodstock.

This point is one of the many that will undoubtedly be discussed by the newly formed Racing Reorganisation Committee which has been formed, as a sub-committee, by the Jockey Club. It is intended, as its name suggests, to reorganise post-war racing, and on it are the Earl of Ilchester, the Duke of Norfolk, the Marquess of Zetland, the Earl of Harewood, Lord Portal and Sir Humphrey de Trafford. These gentlemen, than whom no more representative members could have been chosen, will be materially assisted by Lord Effingham's brother Captain the Hon. A. Howard, as secretary, and, from time to time, by deputations from the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of which Lord Rosebery is President and Mr. E. E. Coussell of the British Bloodstock Agency honorary secretary.

Besides "centralisation" that hardy annual, the overnight declaration of runners, will, on account of the assiduity of its sponsors, be

certain of consideration. In the old days the runners for a race were more or less determined by the jockeys who weighed-out to ride them; later, with the coming of the Totalisator, a rule was introduced, mainly for the benefit of the employees and patrons of this machine, which necessitated the declaration of the runners and their jockeys for a race three-quarters of an hour before the advertised time of starting a race.

Seemingly this was a sufficiency of additional trouble to both owners and trainers, but now the reformers are anxious that the declarations should be made before noon on the day prior to the race or, as one writer suggests, "unless that day be a Sunday or Bank Holiday, when the declaration must be made by the same time the day previous." This would mean, though the writer does not say so, that the owner or the trainer of a horse running in a race at a meeting on the first Tuesday in August would have to declare his horse as a runner and name his jockey, on the previous Saturday, or more than three full days before he was due to run. The reasoning—if there is any—in support of such a suggestion is hard to follow; such an alteration would only have a deleterious effect upon the racecourse attendance and so on the Totalisator turnover.

### THE BREEDER'S INTERESTS

These points have been stressed for the very simple reason that they are the most common ones raised by writers upon the subject. Actually they are in an analogous position to the cart before the horse and cannot be justifiably considered until such time as the horse—the leading entity—has been dealt with. Here this animal is represented by the breeder. Without a breeder there would be no horses and so, forsooth, no owners or trainers or racing and so no "centralisation" or "over-night declarations" to think about, so it is this breeder, or the many hundreds of men and women in this category who have given up their hobby or their livelihood to serve their country, who must, and will, be the first thought of the "Ilchester Committee."

Here it is neither my province nor my intention to make suggestions; the matter can be left in the hands of Lord Ilchester and his colleagues with every confidence, as they know as well as I do that it is the breeder, and the small one at that, who is the backbone of the industry and it is he or she who—as far as the Turf is concerned—has suffered most in the present conflagration and will be in most need of the help of re-organisation when peace returns.

ROYSTON.



# CORRESPONDENCE

## A RARE BIRD VISITOR

SIR,—On September 25 Mr. A. V. Cornish of Minehead telephoned that he had seen on the golf links a bird which, from his description, was a great rarity. I met Mr. Cornish on the links the same afternoon. At first we searched in vain, but as we were returning the bird flew high over our heads from the shore and I kept my field-glasses on it till it was out of sight. It flew strongly, with many twists and turns, like those of a snipe, but less rapid. The only colour I could distinguish was a sandy fawn on its mantle. But later, as we walked back, Mr. Cornish spotted the bird on the ground not 50 yds. away. We approached within 30 yds. of it and had a most excellent view, for it was very tame.

Its size was about that of a golden plover; its general colouring was sand-brown, and its long legs, in strong sunlight, looked a very light grey, almost white. The large head recalled a stone curlew, but from the prominent black "boot-button" eye a black stripe ran backwards, with a parallel white stripe above the black. Seen from behind, these black and white stripes formed a triangle enclosing a very lovely lavender patch at the back of the head. The black beak was decurved, the breast pale fawn. It was a delicate, dainty bird, and ran swiftly with little mincing steps. When, shortly after, it flew again I saw the black tips to its wing quills and the white edges to its tail feathers. The only notes I heard were a short "grut" or "wuk," and "tchit-tchit" before taking to flight.

There could be no doubt as to its identity; it was a cream-coloured courser, a bird of which there are only about 24 recorded appearances in England.

The next day I watched the bird again at the same place for nearly two hours. Its posture as it stands facing you is very upright, with neck and legs straightened, but after making

each short run in search of food it spasmodically depresses the whole of its body so that its very short tail touches the ground, and the legs are bent almost double at the "knee"; at the same time the neck shoots upwards. Occasionally it preened itself and combed its outstretched wing with its claw. When it flapped its wings their black under-surfaces momentarily transfigured it from a brown to a black bird.

While I watched, a peregrine, from its size a falcon, flew over. The courser was at the time screened from my view by a bunker, but directly afterwards I found it crouched on the ground as though brooding, but with the head erect, not depressed. It remained in this posture for 10 minutes. I could not see on what it was feeding; once it held in its beak a black object which may have been a leather-jacket; it was not feeding on the crane flies which were abundant on the links. It was difficult to put the bird up: when I approached it ran swiftly but did not fly.

It was delightful to have so fine a view of this rare bird for so long, and again in bright sunlight. Its sleek plumage, mincing gait, tameness and charming traits of behaviour made the whole incident memorable.

In Vol. IV of the new *Handbook of British Birds* the legs are described as "milk-white," but the plate shows them as yellowish. The legs of my bird had no yellowish tinge.

It would be interesting to know how this bird, whose habitat abroad is North Africa and South-west Asia, reached West Somerset. I was lucky to spend so much time in its company, for it was not seen again after that day.—E. W. HENDY, *Holt Antiss, Porlock, Somerset.*

[Our correspondent is to be congratulated on his good fortune in viewing so rare a visitor to Britain and on the skill with which he made the utmost of the opportunity. As he says, there are some 24 records of the species in Great Britain, chiefly in winter-time, a rather curious fact,

seeing that the bird frequents sandy, semi-desert, or steppe country, in South-west Asia and North Africa, and would seem to have little need to wander northward at the most inclement season of the year. We trust the courser escaped the fate that so often overtakes rare bird visitors and that it returned in safety to its African home.—Ed.]

## NORWEGIAN WOOD-CARVING AT HISTON

SIR,—At Histon Church, Cambridgeshire, is to be seen some fine Norwegian wood carving of particular interest now that country is overrun by the invader. One of these pieces of Norwegian workmanship is a font which hangs from the roof, representing a flying angel holding a basin in the shape of a large shell. When in use it is impossible to prevent this font from swinging and perhaps for that reason a stone font has been installed, although the swinging angel font also remains. In this church also is an exceptionally fine carved lectern. The photograph shows the angel font as it hangs to-day half way between roof and floor.—J. W. MORTON, *March, Cambridgeshire.*



THE FLYING ANGEL FONT IN HISTON CHURCH



ADDISON'S WALK AFTER A SNOWSTORM

## OXFORD SNOW SCENE

SIR,—I send a photograph of what is commonly (albeit incorrectly) regarded as a seasonable Christmas scene. It shows Addison's Walk—that part of the water walks at Magdalen College, Oxford, bounding the northern side of the Magdalen Meadow which in May has England's finest display of wild fritillaries or snakeshead lilies. Oxford's trees—and even Oxford's gardens—scarcely receive from casual day-visitors the appreciation which they deserve. It is perhaps right and inevitable that the architectural glories of the University city should stand first, but the oldest botanic gardens in England, Bishop Heber's chestnut tree, the mulberry at Merton, the copper beech at Wadham—these and such familiar beauties as the gardens at New College, Trinity, St. John's and Worcester, and the already-mentioned water walks, deserve more attention than is indicated by the casual "quite nice" of gargoyle enthusiasts. Cedars having lately been under discussion in your columns, it occurs to me that I cannot offhand recall, in Oxford, a really notable cedar.—A COUNTRY BUMPKIN.

## VANISHING BUILDINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHY

SIR,—The letter from the Rev. J. H. Foy in your issue of December 12 gives timely advice to photographers to record secular as well as ecclesiastical buildings in order to ensure the survival of their design and beauty even when their fabric is destroyed. It may interest you to know that there are four photographs by Mr. A. F. Kersting of the Shambles at Potton, taken from the north-west, north-east, south-east and south-west, on our index. The more information that is sent to us of existing photographs and the more help we receive in making new and much-needed records the more useful this organisation will be to students now and in the future. Already with the help of the Courtauld Institute of Art (in their Conway Library) and with the willing co-operation of COUNTRY LIFE our

prints run well into six figures. Among your readers are doubtless the majority of those who appreciate English architecture in all its phases and who know how valuable is its record. Present dangers urge us to immediate action before it is too late, and the National Buildings Record provides the opportunity for all who realise the need to give effective and timely help.—WALTER H. GODFREY, *The National Buildings Record, All Souls College, Oxford.*

## LUCK AND PLANTS

SIR,—It was extremely interesting to see from your correspondent Mrs. Adamson's letter, October 3, that Judas trees are considered unlucky.

The luck-bringing qualities of a plant usually seem to consist in its power to scare away evil spirits; the bracken, often found near a cottage door, shows the sacred initials when the stem is cut, other plants—as four-leaved clover—form a cross.

The rowan tree and the house-leek are of course well known luck-bringers. A cherry tree near the house is also fortunate. A flowering myrtle is one of the most auspicious things any garden can show.

Perhaps camomile may come into the luck-bringing list; it has a reputation for keeping other plants healthy.—A. MAYO, *Worthing.*

## TURN OUT YOUR PAPER

SIR,—Although many fewer Christmas and New Year cards will no doubt be exchanged this year than normally, there will still be a great number which after they have served their purpose should be added to our salvage collections. It is true that many people usually send cards which are suitable for re-conditioning to disabled ex-Service men for sale again the following year, but those which are not so suitable must amount in the aggregate to, perhaps, tons. Could they be put to a more fitting purpose than the provision of the munitions of war which will bring peace on earth and happy Christmases and New Years in the future?—S. T. W., *Denmark Hill, S.E.5.*

### SANTA CLAUS AT WINCHESTER

SIR,—One of the greatest treasures in the Cathedral at Winchester is the black marble font. There are only seven of these fonts to be found in England; they are made of black marble from the famous quarries near Tournai, in Belgium.

The bowl is square and the detail of the carving is in a wonderful state of preservation; my photographs illustrate legends of St. Nicholas, who is of course Santa Claus.

St. Nicholas of Myra was, in the Middle Ages, one of the favourite saints especially of children and sailors, and at the age of 80 years died in 330 A.D.

The legend of the three little boys who were seeking a night's lodging is shown in the carving in the first photograph. A butcher let them have a room, and then, when they were asleep, cut off their heads with an axe; but after he had pickled their bodies it happened that St. Nicholas also came and terrified the murderer by asking him for a night's lodging. Then for his supper he asked for the pickled bodies of these little boys. When the butcher had confessed to the murder St. Nicholas brought them back to life, and in the second photograph you see him with pastoral staff and the restored youths.

The figure lying down has a cup in its hand and is from the legend of a childless nobleman who said he would give St. Nicholas a gold cup if only he could have a son and heir. His wish came true, so he sailed away with his



**SANTA CLAUS, THE MURDEROUS BUTCHER AND THE BOY WITH THE GOLD CUP**

son to find St. Nicholas at Myra and present him with the gold cup he had promised. On the journey it occurred to him that St. Nicholas would be quite content with a silver one; he would keep the gold one for himself. The son and heir was playing on the deck with the gold cup and he fell overboard with the cup in his hand. The third photograph shows the horrified people in the tiny boat after the accident had happened. The distracted father appealed to St. Nicholas to save the boy and this he did, for you see St. Nicholas and the boy with the gold cup in his hand in the first picture. No doubt St. Nicholas did get the



**THE MURDERED BOYS REVIVE AND THE NOBLEMAN'S SON LIES DEAD**

gold cup after all.—J. DENTON ROBINSON, *The Cottage, Langholm Crescent, Darlington.*

### LETTERS FROM PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY

SIR,—I have been most interested in your photographs of German prisoners-of-war camps, published from time to time in your pages. I do not know if you have had these particular photographs from Oflag IV C, though one appears to be from Oflag VII C. In the Early Summer photograph the names are as follows: *Left to right—*

The Bishop (Polish friend), Captain P. R. Reid, Stanislaus Bartechovitch (Polish Cavalry), Lieutenant "Peter" Allan (Camerons), "Fish" (Polish friend named Carp). In the Last Winter's Contingent: *Left to right (front row)—* Lieutenant Teddy Barton (R.A.S.C.), Captain P. R. Reid, Captain Dick Howe (R.T.C.); *(second row)—* Flight Officer Keith Milne (Canadian), Padre Platt, Colonel Guy German (Leicestershire), Captain Harry Elliott (Irish Guards), Captain Rupert Barry (Light Infantry); *(back row)—* Lieutenant "Peter" Allan (Camerons), Flight Officer Don Middleton (Canadian), Flt. Officer Howard Wardle (Canadian); Lieutenant Tommy

**THE NOBLEMAN'S FRIENDS AFTER THE SON AND HEIR HAS FALLEN OVERBOARD**

Elliott (Northumberland Fusilier), Padre Heard, Lieutenant Peter Pugh (West Kents), Padre Hobling, Lieutenant Geoffrey Wardle (R.N.), and Captain Kenneth Lockwood (Q.R.F.). In the Oflag VII C photograph the names are: *(Left to right)—* Captain Harry Elliott (Irish Guards), Captain Rupert Barry (Light Infantry), Captain P. R. Reid, Captain Dick Howe (R.T.C.), Lieutenant "Peter" Allan (Camerons), and Captain Kenneth Lockwood (Q.R.R.).—A. P. DE T. DANIELL (Captain R.E.), *Fleur de Lys, Stoke under Ham, Somerset.*

**OFLAG VII B**  
SIR,—As this is the first news I have had since my husband (Major C. H. Rodney Gee, M.C., R.D.) and the rest of Oflag IX A/H arrived at Oflag VII B, I think it may be of interest to those who may not yet have had news:

"October 23.—Arrived on the tenth in pouring rain, getting up at 4! Huts here divided up into rooms, mostly with central passage, and stoves in rooms on which we cook and brew. Busy first few days drawing luggage and meeting old friends, as six officers' camps came in. My Col. and rest of officers are here, and I arranged a re-union tea party. . . . Brigadier Somerset is running the camp. There is one huge kitchen, two dining halls (one 1/4 mile away), and we have four to six sittings for meals, as we feed over 3,000. There are 2,450 officers. I have moved to a nice room at H.Q., with seven other staff folk, and our room is a huge one.

All goes well and time goes fast. . . . The beds all fit one on top of another, and are usually doubled as in sleepers. . . . Great fun meeting so many here and having space. Immediate country dull, but lovely a few miles round—we are on a small plateau. Had two Red Cross parcels here, but things are not quite sorted out yet, as you can imagine. Have given or lent lots of property to officers from Crete."—NANCY GEE, *Clouery, Chinley, Derbyshire.*



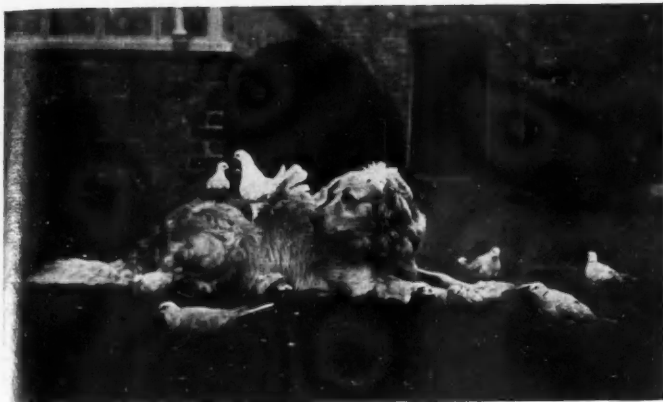
**BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR AT OFLAG IV C; LAST WINTER'S CONTINGENT**



**(Above) IN EARLY SUMMER AT OFLAG IV C**

**(Left) THE FIRST SIX; FROM OFLAG VII C**





JOHN WITH THE DOVES

## A FRIENDLY GROUP

SIR,—This is John; his colour is pale brown with dark eyes and nose. We think him very pretty. This summer when and nine ducklings could walk under his nose with no fear, and the cat purred with pleasure while his large head took up most of the space in her box with her young kittens. The small birds are doves.—DAISY PARRINGTON, Backwood Hall, Neston, Cheshire.

## A PAINTED SCREEN

SIR,—In his account of Marden Hill, Hertfordshire (Aug. 22), Mr. Hussey referred in passing to a curious painted screen in the dining-room and mentioned that it may be of South American origin. It would be interesting to clear up the mystery, and, as one of your readers will probably be able to do so, you may like to publish this photograph of part of it, with this descriptive note.

Actually there are two screens. They are made of wood, painted lacquer red, with simple but efficient hinges made of wire rings. They are about 7ft. 6ins. high. The one in the dining-room has seven leaves, and that in the hall eight leaves. Each leaf is about 1ft. 1½ins. wide and is divided into five panels. The frames on both sides are painted with heavily gilt designs and those on the back are more crudely painted. In front the upper row of panels contain heraldry of the kingdom of Spain. I know nothing of heraldry, but a search in the London Library some years ago led me to think that most of the panels bore the arms of the heroes who went out with Cortez to the conquest of Mexico. The second row evidently represents idealised portraits of Spanish kings prior to about 1750. The curious symbolical paintings in the third and fourth rows seem to be a mixture of Christian and pagan mythology. The Madonna and Child and Cain and Abel can be identified, together with such personages as Mercury with his caduceus and classical deities in chariots. Possibly the seemingly Christian episodes are not really such: perhaps Cain and Abel are really the giants piling Pelion on Ossa or some such. The bottom panels are raised and painted with floral designs. We found the screens in Mexico City many years ago, and they may well be eighteenth-century Mexican work. But I have often wondered if they were painted in Spain and sent out to some Spanish grandee, descended from one of the conquerors of Mexico who had settled there.—C. E. BANBURY, Marden Hill, Hertford.

## NOTES FROM NORTH UIST

SIR,—Never have I seen so few wild geese passing on migration as this autumn. The first migrants to be observed were 200 barnacle geese on September 28. They were flying in a westerly direction. On September 30 40 brent geese settled on the "ford" between the island on which I live and the mainland of North Uist. No geese were noted again till October 21; 14 bean geese and 30 white-fronted geese passed north at about five minutes' interval. On the following day, between five and six p.m., four flocks of white-fronted geese passed

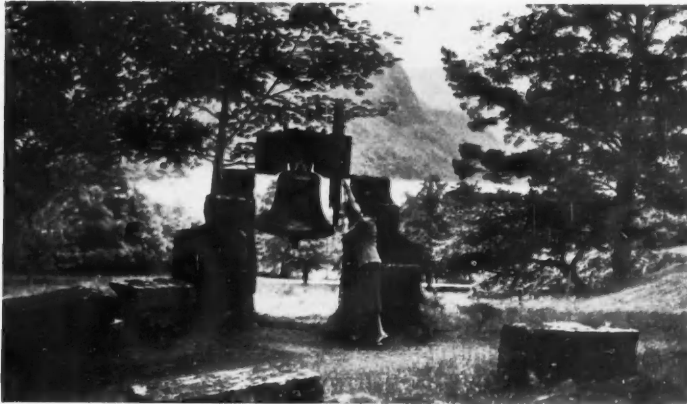
north and east, the bunches numbering from five to 30 geese. I saw the first wild swans on October 25. They were whoopers, nine in number. They settled on a small and shallow sea-trout loch. Redwings and fieldfares were seen on October 24 in small numbers, and the first woodcock of the season was found lying dead on the ground, evidently having been killed by a hawk. Long-tailed duck arrived on November 3, about 30 being seen, but these numbers increased considerably later. I have not seen so many rock pigeons for years as I have seen this autumn. They feed mainly in the oat stubbles.

When on the hill on November 19 I heard, quite close to me, the call of a bird which was quite unknown to me. There was not much cover, only a little rank grass and stunted

patches of heather, but I could not find the bird. As I continued on my way I heard the call again, but this time it sounded at least 100yds. away. I followed up, but again the cry ceased. I heard it again a third time, and then it stopped altogether. I have never heard a woodcock call, and it occurred to me that this was the most likely bird of any frequenting the hill, so when I got home I consulted Coward's *Birds of the British Isles*, and his description of the cry generally corresponds with what I heard, though it is very difficult to describe any bird's cry. The cry I heard was rather long drawn out and not unmusical.—G. B., North Uist.

## AT LOCH SHIEL

SIR,—Near the Prince Charlie Monument is Loch Shiel Church with a



THE BELL IN LOCH SHIEL CHURCHYARD

large bell supported on stones in the churchyard. Presumably the tower was not strong enough to support the bell, or it may have been placed there long after the church was built. Most visitors take a delight in ringing this bell—now probably forbidden owing to the regulations—but try without success to ring it first time. To ring a bell like this one must get the "swing" of it, and get it moving backwards and forwards like a pendulum. I have often seen detached belfries, but never one like this before.—G. LESLIE HORN, 215, Elgin Avenue, London, W.9.

## ELDER WOOD

SIR,—I was interested to learn from your correspondent "A. A." that folk in North Hampshire believe it unlucky to burn elder because it was the wood of the Cross. This is an extremely old superstition. Late y when I was making a rifle range with my platoon of the Home Guard in South-east Hampshire, we cut down two big elder trees, and though every man knew that it was "unlucky" to burn elder not one knew why. The best answer I received was: "They slimey old wet elders be so durned difficult to burn, sir, that's why it be unlucky, I reckon."

I cannot tell your correspondent how the elder became associated with the Cross, unless, as Dr. Brewer has suggested in *The Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, it was a "heartless" wood and the legend a piece of poetic symbolism. I think it more likely that the wetness of new elder, as if wet with tears, may have suggested this legend, just as the aspen has been claimed as the tree of the Cross because it has never ceased to tremble.

In some parts of the country it was once believed that elder was a protective tree. Chambers in *The Book of Days* notes that when he warned some children of the danger of standing under trees during a thunderstorm one of them said: "You will be quite safe under an eldern-tree because the Cross was made of that, and so the lightning never strikes it."

There is also a legend that Judas hanged himself from an elder tree, a superstition that was known to Shakespeare ("Judas was hanged on an elder tree."—*Love's Labour's Lost*).

The classic legend, to which Sir John Mandeville gives so much space in his *Voyages and Travels*, is that the Cross was made of four kinds of wood, a legend still current in the Eastern Churches. The upright was of cypress, the crosspiece of palm, the root of the Cross of cedar, and the tablet, on which the title was written, was of olive. There is an old couplet which runs:

Nailed were His feet to Cedar, to  
Palm His hands,  
Cypress His body bore, title on  
Olive stands.

Perhaps the most interesting of all these legends is the English story that the mistletoe provided the Cross and that, in punishment, it ceased to be a noble tree and became a parasite. We may perhaps see in this an ingenious attempt on the part of some early missionary to wean our pagan forefathers from their druidical observances.—H. V. MORTON, South Hay, Bordon, Hampshire.



PART OF A CURIOUSLY PAINTED SCREEN, PROBABLY OF SOUTH AMERICAN ORIGIN, AT MARDEN HILL

## FARMING NOTES

## INCREASES IN SHEEP AND POULTRY

ALL the talk about increasing the acreage of clover and grass leys next spring is making some farmers anxious about the supplies of seed. There certainly will not be enough of all the well-known types to go round and we may have to do with rather simpler mixtures, especially for the one-year leys. No doubt the Government are trying to get in as much seed as possible from abroad, notably from America and New Zealand, to meet the increased demand. It is certainly a wise precaution for farmers to put in their orders early for what they will want so that seedsmen can judge the demand in good time. So far as the pedigree strains from Aberystwyth are concerned there are at present three associations of seed growers operating in the South-Western Counties, Essex, and Herefordshire. These societies operate a strict certification scheme which is supervised by the Welsh Plant Breeding Station and includes annual inspections and a "growing on" test to check the truthness to type of their seeds under field conditions. No seed of Aberystwyth strain which is genuine can be sold in the market without a certificate of guarantee and the buyer should protect himself by insisting on a certificate when making his purchase.

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SPEAKING at Preston the Minister of Agriculture went as far as to say that a great deal of land that is now under the plough will have in the next two years to be seeded down to temporary leys of varying durations, one, two or three years. If those leys are to be properly established they will need livestock, especially sheep, to graze them. Mr. Hudson said that in his view the sheep population has fallen too far. Many farmers were fearful last year that they would be short of keep and they cut down their breeding flocks unnecessarily hard. Certainly if these temporary leys are to get properly established we shall need more sheep and more young cattle, and they in turn will help to provide Lord Woolton with more meat for the weekly ration.

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IT seems not long ago since everyone was saying that no permanent grassland ought to be reserved for sheep or for grazing cattle, and in serving ploughing-up directions the War Agricultural Committees made it necessary for many farmers to cut down their flocks. Already we could do with more sheep on our farms, and certainly with more young leys in the offing we shall need to keep more ewe lambs back for the breeding flocks. I have heard it suggested that no ewe lambs or ewe tegs should go for slaughter. It hardly seems necessary to impose such rigid control when breeding stock command a premium over killing prices and, with an increased demand, are likely to realise still more attractive prices to the man who has them for sale.

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ONE of the causes of present-day troubles in the poultry industry is the lack of pullets and the predominance of old birds in the laying flocks. It is the pullets that lay eggs in the autumn and winter months. Now too many flocks carry a majority of over-age birds. Last spring no one could foresee the future and most of us were timid in our rearing policy. We did not bring on enough pullet chicks to keep the laying flocks up to effective strength. Now Mr. Hudson has promised that there will be a special issue of chick feed which will include some grain to enable poultry keepers to rear their own replacements. This extra ration should be sufficient to allow them to rear chicks to the extent of about one-third of their pre-war numbers. This news came as a relief to many poultry farmers who were thinking that after hanging on for so long they would in the end have to abandon their flocks because of the impossibility of rearing replacements. They know to their cost that old hens are not worth their keep, especially when they have to live on so much kitchen waste and bulky food. Egg production has been very low for the last few weeks.

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THE hundreds of thousands of domestic poultry keepers with their millions of birds have neither the facilities nor the experi-

ence for raising their own replacement stock. The Government will not provide them with extra rations for the purpose. But they do propose to allow extra rations to poultry breeders with sound foundation breeding stock so that they can rear pullets for sale next spring and summer. The extra ration will be on the basis of the numbers of pullets that the breeder is prepared to rear for sale, and the condition that he should give preference to orders from domestic poultry keepers and conform to an agreed scale of prices.

\*\*\*

AUTUMN-SOWN wheat has made strong growth in the past month. I have never seen such a large wheat acreage in my part of the country. October proved such a favourable month for work on the land that everyone was able to get on well with few delays. It is a great comfort to the arable farmer to have a good part of his corn acreage sown away safely in the autumn. A Norfolk friend tells me that he thinks the county acreage will be well up to last year's. Farmers are looking for a substantial increase in the wheat price to cover increased costs and also to put wheat on a better footing compared with oats and barley. As the Government have asked us all to grow as much wheat as possible, it is a safe bet that wheat prices for 1942 will be increased, and I hope the increase is on a fairly generous scale to cover higher wage rates and leave the grower a decent profit on an average crop. This year the barley grower has had everything in his favour. The next year if we get a ceiling put on malting

barley prices and wheat prices lifted, there ought not to be such a glaring disparity.

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SIR PHILIP BAKER-WILBRAHAM, whose memorandum on the upkeep of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners' estates I referred to here last week, considers that private ownership at its best is hard to beat, but there is much to be said for corporate ownership provided that those in control have the interests of the land and those who work on it at heart, and do not look for quick returns. As compared with State ownership, corporate ownership certainly has advantages. It should be possible to preserve a great deal of that personal interest and loyalty which is the strong point of good private ownership. Greater elasticity of administration is possible. With a vast public control it is necessary to work by rule and public officials must not make mistakes. But every farm is really an independent proposition, and a body like the Commissioners can work to less rigid rules, reach speedier decisions and deal with each case specially. Sir Philip Baker-Wilbraham urges that if larger areas of English land are to come into public ownership after the war, it must be for the benefit of the nation that other forms of ownership with all their historical associations should be allowed to co-exist provided that they are good. It may be added that private ownership could hardly compete with corporate ownership or State ownership unless the State recognises the function of the competent private landowner by allowing his estate to pass from one generation to the next without penalising taxation. CINCINNATUS.

## THE ESTATE MARKET

## ADVANTAGES OF OWNERSHIP

BOUND up with every transaction in real estate is, it may be presumed, not merely present advantage but some calculation of future increment of value. In existing circumstances one of the principal attractions of real estate is its comparative immunity from the effects of inflation.

The true value of money in many of its forms may change greatly to the detriment of the holders, and the purchasing power of the pound may reveal considerable fluctuations. But freehold property has a character of stability peculiar to itself, and, though the value of structures may change, or even, apart from the natural decay of age, practically disappear, the site must always retain present and prospective possibilities, and so ensure the owner against such losses as may affect other forms of investment. This applies particularly to urban property, although signs are not wanting that theoretical reformers and others have begun to propose measures which tend to affect values: for example, the suggested denial of compensation to owners who continue to use premises for certain purposes for a fixed period after some other mode of use has been prescribed pursuant to town-planning schemes.

## "NON-CONFORMING" PREMISES

ACTUALLY this idea is embodied in a report which has been adopted by the London County Council. The matter came up as part of the draft of evidence which the Council intends to submit to a body dealing with the problem of compensation and betterment. Designating certain uses of premises in any given area as "non-conforming," the proposal is that the "non-conforming" use must cease after 20 years' notice without compensation, and that in the event of the earlier discontinuance of the alleged objectionable or "non-conforming" use, either through the demolition of the premises or other specified events, no compensation should be payable for and upon prevention of the resumption of such "non-conforming" use. Foreseeing that this might involve an arbitrary encroachment on ownership, objections were urged by some members of the Council: as one put it "while persons who tried to impede proper redevelopment deserved no sympathy, no private owner should be deprived of his property or of a valuable utilisation of it without proper compensation." For what it is worth the report appears to authorise the submission of all the points to the investigating body.

## FREEHOLD REVERSIONS

THE reversionary rights of freehold ground rents, varying of course according to the remoteness of the reversion, have always been an

important element in calculating the value of such rents. Doubts may well be felt as to the future of these securities, seeing the tendency of legislation in various directions, such as the growing enlargement of the rights of tenant at the expense of landlord, the revival of schemes for separately rating and taxing site values, and the effect of reconstruction schemes on the character of localities. Meanwhile, as they exist, with their ultimate interest, the reversion, still to be counted on, these investments are fetching, for rentals secured on comparatively poor types of property, as much as 24 years' purchase. Not enough are being brought into the open market to afford much material for forming an opinion as to the extent of the demand. However, in common with all classes of substantial investments, they are pointing towards the yield of a much lower rate of interest.

RURAL INVESTMENT  
ATTRactions

THE most favourably situated vendors and purchasers seem to be those concerned with country residential property of small acreage. Here the buyers are not primarily, if at all, troubling about the monetary result of their outlay, inasmuch as it is a quiet and comfortable residence that they seek, and how many there are now engaged in such a quest.

If studied only from the vendor's aspect the market for farms must strike any observer as a healthy one, in which no disappointments need be suffered. One consideration that may be reducing the number of offers of farms is the owners' expectation that the upward movement of prices of agricultural land has by no means ceased. Certainly the fact of the still unsatisfied requirements of some very large investors assures the vendors of good farms of a ready sale, especially if a large area can be acquired. For the individual farms that are submitted, the farmers, not merely local but from places far afield, provide plenty of competitors.

REALLY "PRIVATE"  
TRANSACTIONS

IF not much is heard of transactions in the larger class of country house it is partly because so many of them are under requisition by the authorities, or in use for the time being at least as schools or institutions. References to transactions in this class of property are, generally speaking, not welcomed by the large financial and commercial concerns that have taken the mansions, and in the case of requisitioning they are definitely not to be disclosed. ARBITER.



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## In the Desert

## The Y.W.C.A. is there

In December, just a year ago, the first British Y.W.C.A. War Service Centre in the Middle East was opened—a residential Nursing Services Club. Since then three more similar centres, two recreation huts in the desert, a houseboat on the Nile called the Lotus, and a Lido on the Suez Canal have been opened. In these centres Army nurses and Service women can spend a short leave or enjoy a few hours off duty and entertain their friends—both men and women.

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A shady verandah, perhaps a bathe or a swim, English teas with brown bread and butter and salads and ice-cold lemon and orange drinks are luxuries above price, after the heat and dust of the desert camps. And so is listening to the wireless: a recent letter says "the 9.30 news from London means a lot to New Zealanders and a thousand times more to English and Scottish nurses."

In Great Britain, as in the Middle East, the Y.W.C.A. caters for the needs of Service women at lonely Naval bases, in large army camps and at isolated R.A.F. stations, and there are now over 170 Blue Triangle centres. This year many of these girls will be spending Christmas away from their homes and families and will turn to the Y.W.C.A. Hut to find not only gaiety and companionship, but something of the Christmas message of peace and goodwill. Funds are urgently wanted to provide the many new Y.W.C.A. huts which are needed in 1942 both at home and abroad.

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## NEW BOOKS

## WHAT MAKES A MAN?

Reviews by HOWARD SPRING

LORD NEWTON, in a preface to his book *Retrospection* (Murray, 15s.), writes: "I have had an unbroken Parliamentary experience which is longer

than that of any living individual with the exception of two or three peers of advanced age." This experience began in the House of Commons and was continued in the House of Lords, and the period which it covered was one in which social and political change marched with an ever-quickenning tempo, so that the book reflects, as the author says, "a kind of life that is never likely to be repeated in the future." For that alone it is worth reading; but the author's personality gives us more than this and ensures that what might have been merely a document is, as they say, a "human document."

The author, whose father, Captain W. J. Legh, became the first Lord Newton, was brought up in the great Cheshire house of Lyme where, when entertaining was going forward, as much as a ton of coal a day would be burned in the kitchen alone. He passed through Eton where in his day "the younger boys, who had been plied with champagne by the crews of the Eights at Surly Hall, could be seen lying about helplessly drunk," and where he discovered "how to pass muster with a minimum of work," and so came to Oxford where his instructor in mathematics was Lewis Carroll, "a melancholy-looking man who did not display the faintest suggestion of humour in his lectures."

## "IT'LL DO"

Soon after he came of age he went to the Foreign Office, and very quickly went on, already married, to the Paris Embassy where he conceived a great admiration for Lord Lyons, whose Life he was later to write. After five years as an attaché he entered the House of Commons as Conservative Member for Newton; and eight years later, on the death of his father, he passed into the House of Lords.

Such, in briefest outline, were the stages of his career, and the question inevitably presents itself to the mind, why a man with so many advantages of birth and wealth, who knew everybody, who travelled with a pertinacity that gave him a great knowledge of foreign countries and with a curiosity that gave him a deep insight into foreign affairs, did not achieve a position of political importance greater than any which Lord Newton did in fact achieve.

I think the answer is to be found in that remark which he makes about his Eton days and being satisfied with just "passing muster." It was the same at Oxford, where "the only achievement that stands to my credit is that I won the Grind, the principal steeplechase of the year." Mr. Cochran, in his new book, says: "The worst fault in the theatre is the tendency to slacken off just when one's most strenuous efforts are needed to

ensure a satisfactory finish. 'It'll do' is an evil phrase."

This somewhat *laissez-faire* attitude to his own great opportunities and considerable endowments runs all through Lord Newton's book, and to it is added a quiet amusement with the push and strife of political careerists. It is perhaps fatal to be able to look dispassionately on the game one is playing, and when the dispassion is touched with an ironical appreciation of absurdity the game is up. Consider this entry, under the date August 9, 1902: "Coronation

Day . . . Peers and peeresses much disfigured by their coronets, which are vulgar-looking ornaments, suggestive of pantomime. Everyone pleased, and a general feeling of satisfaction."

He recognises in others the importance of the last bit of push. Speaking of generals returned from the South African War, some of them "apt to impress on their audiences that they had always been at the bottom of their class when at school," he adds: "It never seemed to occur to anyone that if they had been at the top instead of the bottom the war might perhaps have finished earlier." He can give a sly dig when he feels like it. Speaking of a social science congress, he says: "I received the impression that the few people attending it were reading rejected magazine articles to each other."

Lord Newton was a hard worker for compulsory military service from the time of the Boer War onwards. Here are two consecutive entries from 1909, terribly sad, terribly significant. "The Bill" (for compulsory home defence) "with the assistance of the Liberals, was defeated by 123 to 103." "Channel flown by Bleriot."

The book is full of the great personalities of the age, in this country and abroad, and of queer stories. There is one concerning the fifteenth Earl of Derby who kept an iron box with a slit in it, "through which he constantly inserted a sovereign. When he died the box was found to contain no less than £11,000." "Constantly" is certainly the word here, for to achieve this result it would be necessary to insert a sovereign a day for 30 years.

## EDUCATING A KING

Dr. Catherine Gavin's biography *Edward the Seventh* (Cape, 12s. 6d.) stresses the evil effect of the educational system which Victoria and Albert, with Stockmar's help, devised for their son. The consequences of this are traced right through Edward's life, so that one might almost call it the book's main theme.

Now for myself I think this theory has been worked to death; and, however much educationists may scowl at me for saying it, I think education has very little effect in forming character, though it may enormously help in developing character already there. We learn, for example, that Edward VII disliked books, and this,

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of course, is all the fault of his having had too many books pushed down his throat.

But was it? In Lord Newton's book we read: "On the staff also was the present Duke of Windsor . . . unable to undertake any important staff work because he could not be induced to read." It has never been complained that Edward VIII's upbringing suffered from the educational rigour that was imposed on Edward VII, yet the same type of mind, and roughly the same attitude to men and manners, emerged in the case of each. They were that sort, and that's all there is to be said about it.

After all, a king can be judged in such matters by precisely the same standard as one applies to any boy in any council school, and it is a matter of elementary observation that one will take to an intensive course of book-learning like a duck to water and another won't have it, whatever you do. It is not, therefore, wrong to have tried it on him; and fortunately there is that in human nature which is resilient enough to shake off what it doesn't want without resentment.

What was more important was the Queen's attitude to the Prince after the death of his father. Her long denial to him of any share in the cares she herself bore may indeed have developed in him a sense of frustration; but the question has yet to be thoroughly worked out whether she kept him from responsibility because he was irresponsible or whether he became irresponsible because he was kept from responsibility.

#### A COMMON DELUSION

Dr. Gavin seems to me inclined to accept some of her views without careful examination. For example, on page 211 she writes: "Lord Roberts, who held that military service should be compulsory and not voluntary, was a voice crying in the wilderness." Now Lord Newton, who was in at the beginning of the National Service League, writes: "The common belief is that it was Lord Roberts who first advocated the principle of compulsion, but this is a complete delusion," and he writes later that he was "discouraged" by Lord Roberts who "deprecated strongly any attempt to

advocate compulsion." True, Lord Roberts later became an advocate of the League's programme, but there had been voices in the wilderness before him, and he had to be helped gingerly along the way.

I gained the impression that Dr. Gavin had formed preconceptions of all her characters and then drilled the facts into meeting her views. For example, we see the last German Kaiser as a child at a royal wedding taking the cairngorm from his skean-dhu and bowling it across the choir. This strikes me as no more than a restless boy's trick, without much significance, but to Dr. Gavin it shows that "little Wilhelm had an irresistible desire to draw the attention of the multitude away from Uncle Bertie to himself." I wonder.

#### A SPANISH NOVEL

Mr. Ramon J. Sender's novel *A Man's Place* (Cape, 7s. 6d.) is a translation by Oliver la Farge from the Spanish. It is a beautiful novel, full of light and colour, and peopled by living beings. The setting is a small township from which the poorest of poor men, a certain Sabino, had disappeared 15 years before. It was thought that he had been murdered, but he had merely been overcome by the burden of his life and had chosen to live as an animal in the wilds.

Mr. Sender gives us the consequences of this simple instinctive act—terrible consequences for the two men who were convicted of having murdered him; and the consequences, too, of his return to the life of the community.

It is the life of the community that makes the substance of the book. The rich men, the political parties, the poor, the priests, the homes and the council chamber: all these aspects are effortlessly evoked, as well as the smell of the country and the weather in the streets.

Altogether this is a novel to be highly commended. One thing I learned from it—for certainly Mr. Sender may be accepted as a reliable witness—was that in 1910, in the Spain of Alfonso XIII, tortures were applied by the police as appalling as any to be found among our contemporary barbarians, as appalling, indeed, as any in the long tragic history of man's inhumanity to man.

#### OUR BRITISH BIRDS

THE fifth volume of the new *Handbook of British Birds* (Witherby, 5gs. the set) is now published despite the difficulties of wartime book production, and completes the re-issue of a work so thoroughly overhauled and re-written, and containing so much fresh information, that its relationship to the old *Handbook of British Birds* is no more than that of parent and child. The child, moreover, is a lusty infant. The old book was contained in two comparatively slender volumes; the new one, as said, extends to five quite portly tomes. Even so it is a model of conciseness, a mass of exact information being given with a terse brevity that is admirable. This last of the five volumes covers terns to game birds, beginning with the black tern and concluding with the quail, both species that formerly came here much more numerous than they do to-day. The black tern, that lovely moth-like inhabitant of marshes and lagoons, formerly bred in various parts of England, but ceased to do so regularly before the middle of the last century, so that latterly we have had to cross the Channel and visit such places as the Dutch Naardermeer to see this grey-black sprite hovering over the reed-beds. We fear that for most of us the black tern will be but

a memory until this war is finished. The quail is also described by the *Handbook* as being "formerly much more plentiful"; however, it still comes here each summer with fair regularity, and the stay-at-home ornithologist can hope to meet with this smallest of our British game birds even if the hope be but a slender one. Between terns and quails Vol. v of the *Handbook* covers a variety of species, gulls, skuas, auks and so on. For instance, it fell open at "The Great Auk, *Alca impennis*" at the paragraph on distribution beginning "British Isles—extinct," and giving a brief account of the murderous story of that extinction, from which sombre record it was pleasant to turn to maps showing the migrations of the razor-bill, kittiwake and so on. The work is illustrated with many coloured plates of birds in various stages of plumage, with black and white plates of young, of chicks, etc., and with maps, sketches, and diagrams in the text. It concludes with additions and corrections, the systematic list of British birds, and very full and careful indices. No pains have been spared to make the work as comprehensive as possible, and it will long be an indispensable book to all students not only of British birds but of Palaearctic bird life.

## LUCKY DOG?

The people who are quite convinced that theirs are indeed lucky dogs are those who have always fed their pets on "Chappie." For, as old customers, they can count on still getting their fair and regular share of the limited supplies available, now that "Chappie" has had to be rationed.

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DENES

## HOUSE COAT or Dinner Frock

**W**E begin 1942 with an issue of 20 coupons, and the cheering knowledge that the shops are full of beautiful merchandise. In 1941 we have undergone a revolution in our attitude towards buying clothes. We have learned to synchronise our colours, exercise our ingenuity to change our appearance without using up a single coupon. We have become conscious of individual style as opposed to fashion. Fashion is a fleeting and frivolous affair that bears no relation to the present day. You can have style without being fashionable. Style is your own personality expressed in your clothes. It means making the most of your good points, acknowledging frankly your bad. It expresses itself in colour, in the way you tie your scarf, do your hair, group your accessories, in your jewellery, the tilt of your hat.

Nineteen forty-two opens with a special chance for using these new coupons to advantage, for sales in all the big London shops will be held as usual in the early weeks of January. Stocks are limited, attractive, varied. One of the special buying "plums" at Marshall and Snelgrove's is the lingerie satin, of which they still hold a certain amount. This is manufactured specially for the house, is heavy, pure silk. It is guaranteed to wash perfectly, comes in ten soft pastel shades, also ivory, and costs 15s. 9d. a yard. It is the last of its kind we shall see till the end of the war. There are also a number of pieces of lingerie crêpe de Chine at 11s. 9d. a yard. Rayon crêpe de Chine in a matt finish and in three shades of pink—rose, peach, salmon, also ivory—costs 5s. 9d. a yard. There are some superb woollens—all kinds of fine angoras, *bouclés*, homespun tweeds, wool georgettes selling from 10s. to 12s. a yard. These fabrics are all what might be termed "gilt-edged" securities. We have to cut our coat according to our cloth these days, and the quota for high-quality materials has been drastically cut. When existing stocks are sold they can be replaced only in minute amounts; some of the dyes and designs cannot be repeated until after the war. The wise will buy now. The stocking department at Marshall and Snelgrove's is as famous as the fabric. In the

sale are large supplies of circular knit rayon stockings in a special matt finish and a sheer weight. These cling and wear well, cost 3s. a pair. Four-thread hard twist lisle stockings, very hard-wearing, cost 6s. 6d. Pure silk have vanished—but there are compensations.

Suits are the big fashion of the war, for the tailor-made is the best stand-by in a limited wardrobe. Tailor-mades at Peter Robinson's sale, beginning January 1, include many short ranges at marvellous prices that are only possible because of the stocks of woollen materials held. Multi-coloured tweeds in clear, vivid tones, mixed audaciously with a darned effect in the weaving, are being sold at £7. These have patch pockets, button snugly to the waist. At 90s. Peter Robinson show suits in bird's-eye check tweeds, in the soft dyes of the homespun—blues mixed with greys and greens, crottle browns, soft blues. A number of light-weight *bouclé* tweed suits are to be had for the incredible price of £2. Colours are good—dove grey, blue, mauve. Some summer coats have been reduced to £4. These come in *bouclé* and angora woollens, in pastel pinks, blues, greens, apricot, peach, and a great many in oatmeal and beiges. They are either belted and fitting or straight and swagger, and are just the thing to wear over your print and cotton frocks all the summer through. For £3 there are country coats in bold herringbone tweeds, some with raglan sleeves, some

- ★ The house coat that is also a dinner frock, and can do duty as a dressing gown is one of the styles evolved by the coupon scheme.
- ★ These dual-personality coats come in dark tones lit up by flashes of colour, in stiff shining brocades, in printed woollens.
- ★ Harvey Nichols show one in midnight blue wool with sash and cuffs of floral brocade.
- ★ Another is a multi-coloured brocade, zipped from hem to throat with deep turn-back cuffs.





(1)



(2)

1 Suede Ghillie. Crepe rubber sole. Navy/wine; Navy/white; all Black - - - **35/9**

2 Suede Gusset shoe. Low Cuban heel. Black/wine; Navy/wine; Brown/yellow - - - **35/9**

3 Calf shoe. Rubber sole. Navy/white; Brown/beige - - - **35/9**

4 Calf shoe. Cuban leather heel. Black, Navy or Brown - - - **35/9**



(3)

*Special Values in*

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(4)

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## Light on Top

For a New Year party, for a wedding, a sheath of matt black crêpe with a top of turquoise blue encrusted with stalactites of black at the waist and on the sleeves. This dress when made in beaver brown and pale blue is charming under a brown fur coat. It shows a war fashion, the tailored silhouette applied to a formal dress.

DENES

with set in, some belted, some straight, some in plaids in dark mixed colours. Odd tweed skirts come in very bright plaids, mostly a deep colour such as midnight blue or crimson allied to soft pinks and a paler blue, or dark green and tans grouped in the same way. These are useful as they lend themselves to many different sets of accessories.

The many tweed suits in solid colours shown for this spring call for the gayest of blouses. At Harvey Nichols's I found shirts in rayon crêpe in all kinds of rainbow stripes in dramatic colour combinations costing only 25s. They are gay and pretty, are made in very good shapes, wash like a rag and wear well.

For the spring and summer, Gorrings's show, in their sale, tailor-mades in chalk-striped and plain suitings, men's materials that are very hard-wearing, soft to "handle," and smart. These suits are classic in style, linked at the waist, blue, navy, brown, or beige. Special attention is paid to the larger people, and suits are made in sizes up to 50in. hips. Gorrings's also make a special feature of dresses for the larger women and show sale bargains in marocain, in deep rich shades of plum, wine, blue, reduced to 5 guineas, and handsome *broché* velvets for 6 guineas. Tops are draped or gauged. The marocains are embroidered. Smart skirts in herringbones, and in plain tweeds in heather tones or tone-on-tone herringbones, are pleated all round, with the pleats stitched to the thigh and zip-fastened. They also are made in large sizes and priced right down to 2 guineas. Shirts to go with them come in plains for the plaids, all bright clear pastel colours; in gay plaids for the plain skirts. These plaids are angora and wool, with round collarless necklines or Peter Pan collars. A chocolate brown and chalk blue was a pretty combination, so were some coral and green mixtures. Prices for these are cut from 29s. 6d. to 15s. for the sale. For personal shoppers at Gorrings's there are tailored tunic dresses in jersey, cherry, or pansy blue.

The line of all these suits, dresses, coats, is simple and tailored, and everything fits like a glove at the waistline. Detail is introduced on pockets, collars and belts. Colours everywhere are incisive. These are clothes with style. They have been made for women leading busy lives, who want something that will see them through from morning till night. They are unostentatious, practical, cheerful. P. JOYCE REYNOLDS.







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U N D E R   R O Y A L   P A T R O N A G E

# A NORTHERN RHODESIAN NATIVE SHOW

By PHYLLIS A. WILLSON

**N**ORTHERN RHODESIA is one of the Empire's youngest colonies, and, although the Government is doing its best to train the natives wisely and well, it is a hard and seemingly thankless task, beset with many difficulties and requiring great tact, wisdom and patience. Witch-craft and old tribal customs die hard, and their eradication cannot be accomplished by punishment alone. Should such a method be followed, these practices would merely be hidden more deeply from official eyes. It is largely on this account that the best brains obtainable are required for the administration. By the death of Mr. Frank H. Melland, a former District Commissioner of Northern Rhodesia and author of *Witch-Bound Africa*, the country lost its greatest authority on native lore and witch-craft.

I attended the second Northern Rhodesian Native Agricultural Show to be held in the country. It took place at the Government Agricultural School some 10 miles from Pemba, where the accompanying photographs were taken.

The entries were of a very good standard, in the opinion of those who had the knowledge and experience to realise the uphill organisation done by the officials; it takes some time for the natives who are not pupils of the Agricultural School to understand what is required of them. As an example of this, one highly intelligent native whom I had known for fifteen years was most surprised when he was assured, three or four days before the show, that his exhibits would remain his own property after the show. Many more men would exhibit could they be assured of this, he said. The natives are very childlike in many ways. I can well imagine with what misgivings they escorted their best cow and calf to their first show, with the thought in their minds that the animals were to be lost to them; for their cattle are their dearest possessions.

Each mission near enough to exhibit had its own stand, in which could be seen the work of trades of many kinds, such as shoe-making and carpentry, with sewing, knitting and cooking for the girls. Some very fine clay modelling and wood carving were also shown, for these native people have a wonderful sense of balance, shape and proportion.

Their physical training display, especially the pyramid formations, calling for great strength, precision and balance, were particularly worthy of notice. The performers were all under native instructors, and during the whole performance one did not even see the men who were responsible for this perfection.

The Northern Rhodesian Native Regiment Band was, I think, the most popular feature of the day. These people are great music-lovers, and this band is regarded as one of the best native bands in Africa. When the Prince



(Above) A NATIVE-MADE THATCHED SLEIGH AT THE SHOW

This sleigh is drawn by two oxen

(Left) DRUM-CORPORAL PETER "LOOKS AS IF HE OWNS THE WORLD"



of Wales visited South Africa and the Rhodesias in 1925 this band was sent to meet him on his arrival in Africa. At the head of the band Drum-Corporal Peter looks as though he owns the world, and would not, I am sure, change places with his own chief.

To my mind, the greatest event of the day was the Baby Show. The third picture shows a portion of the line of mothers awaiting their turn to be examined by the judges; the fourth is one of the happy winners.

Welfare work is rather a heart-breaking affair; the mothers are so weak and dilatory. They will attend a clinic with pleasure so long as it causes them no inconvenience, and so long as they can have a hearty gossip when they get there; or, in fact, so long as their sick child is being made better, for they are very fond of their children. Once, however, the child is well, they go back to their dirty huts and practise none of the things that have been taught them for the care and cleanliness of their babies. The child mortality is, in consequence, very great. However, very slowly and with great patience, this matter will be overcome, and in time it is hoped all the little black babies in Northern Rhodesia will look as clean and well cared for as the cheerful little prize-winner in the picture.



MOTHERS AND THEIR BABIES WAITING TO SEE THE BABY-SHOW JUDGE AND (Right) ONE OF THE WINNERS



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The solution of Crossword No. 621, the clues of which appeared in the issue of December 19, will be published next week.

"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 622

A prize of books to the value of two guineas, drawn from those published by COUNTRY LIFE, will be awarded for the first correct solution to this puzzle opened in this office. Solutions should be addressed (in a closed envelope) "Crossword No. 622, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," and must reach this office not later than the first post on the morning of Thursday, January 1, 1942.

ACROSS.

1. A choice of shelter for the lady-bird's youngest (two words, 7, 4)
9. Esau had an abundance of them (5)
10. Are Spanish castles a feature of its landscape? (9)
11. Only the rind for a statesman (4)
12. Avoid (5)
13. 501 completed (4)
16. The crate has come to pieces (5)
17. The doctor, and more with him, gets out of the window! (6)
19. And in France is in the rain (6)
20. Deadens (5)
22. Expensive in a red turn-out (4)
23. The way to fasten a wagon to a star (5)
24. Desk suitable for a thousand? (4)
27. Three men in office (9)
28. I get in the bran to find him (5)
29. "Not at home" is scarcely the right answer here (two words, 2, 9)

DOWN.

1. Kipling gave him a burden (two words, 5, 3)
2. Flowery get-up? (4)
3. Separate existences for each of us (15)

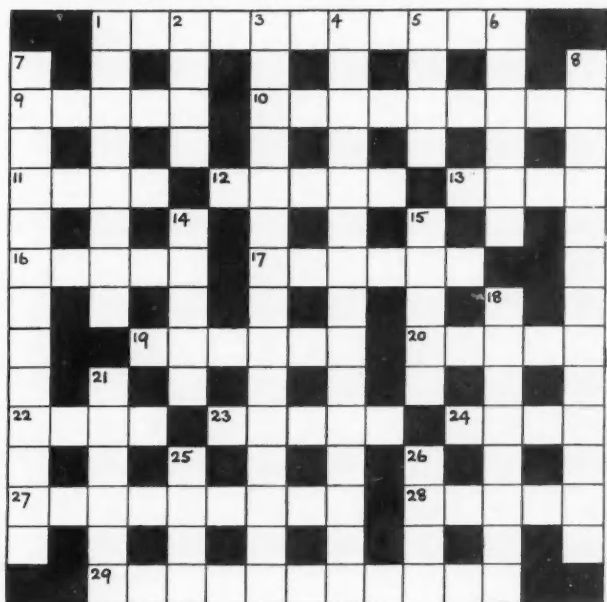
The winner of

Crossword No. 620 is

H. C. Broadrick, Esq.,  
Highfield,  
Windermere, Westmorland

4. His son's son's son (two words, 5, 10)
5. Points to a first-class manuscript (4)
6. Cast by a great rock in a thirsty land (6)
7. "Not once or twice in our rough island story, ——— was the way to glory." —Tennyson (four words, 3, 4, 2, 4)
8. "Drive ten teams" (anagr.) (13)
14. Always after 50 (5)
15. Price of thinking (5)
18. Ill-mannered, because led off by a little devil? (8)
21. Ancient divinities setting out in a horse-drawn conveyance (6)
25. It takes a Hebrew measure to bring about Rome's fall (4)
26. Blackened bone? (4)

"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD No. 622



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VOL. XC. 2345.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper and for Canadian Magazine Post.

DECEMBER 26, 1941.

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